FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-213
Thursday
3 November 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-213 *3 November 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 November Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Israeli Election, PNC Session *[WAKH]* 3
'Arafat Leaves Baghdad After Visit 2 Nov *[INA]* 3
PLO's Hurani Comments on 'Political Program' *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 1 Nov]* 3
PNC Members in Syria Ask To Attend Session *[WAKH]* 4
PLO Radio Views Israeli Election Results *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 4
PPSF To Return to PLO Executive Committee *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 29 Oct]* 5
Plot To Assassinate PLO Leaders Alleged *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 1 Nov]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Arab Affairs 9
Mubarak Congratulates Bendjedid on National Day 9
New Islamic Group Discovered; 350 Arrested *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 2 Nov]* 9
UNDUGO Group Issues Final Statement 10
Paper on Arab Votes in Israeli Elections *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 1 Nov]* 10
Daily Cited on Criticism of Shamir Remarks 11

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Says Relations With Italy 'Good' 11
JANA Editor Criticizes VOA Commentary 12
Al-Humaydi Cited on Maghreb Summit Prospects *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Nov]* 12

Sudan

Parties Reject Proposal for Union With Libya *[MENA]* 13
Al-Mahdi on Law to Limit Contacts With Rebels *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Nov]* 13
Beda Says Contacts With SPLA 'Time-Wasting' 13
Commentary on Failure of Khartoum Government *[Radio SPLA]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Saudi Foreign Minister Addresses GCC Session 15
Ministers Issue Statement 15
Regional Marine Environment Meeting Ends 16

Kuwait

Austria's Waldheim Ends Visit, Departs 16

Oman

Further on Visit by PDRY's Al-'Attas 16
Qabus, Al-'Attas Sign Pact 16
3 Cooperation Pacts Signed 17
Al-'Attas Comments, Departs 17
Joint Communique Issued *[Aden]* 18

IRAQ

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives in Baghdad 2 Nov 20
'Aziz, Red Cross Chief Discuss POW Issue 20
New Round of Ministerial Talks Held in Geneva 21
Session of Talks Concluded 21
Perez de Cuellar Cited on Talks 21
UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad 22

ISRAEL

Likud Ends Meetings With 4 Religious Parties 23
Positions on Transfer, Elections, Coalition 23
Further on Contacts 23
Likud Forms Negotiating Teams 24
Shamir Meets With Tzomet, Moledet on Coalition 24
Arens Defense Minister in Shamir Cabinet 25
Arens Defense Post Denied 25
Herzog To Begin Faction Meetings 'Next Week' 25
Peres Interviewed on National Unity Government 25
Further Peres Comments 25
Labor Calls for 'Major Shake-Up' in Leadership *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Nov]* 26
NRP To 'Demand' Education Portfolio in Cabinet 26
Sharon Seeks Police Post To Fight 'Subversion' *[Tel Aviv THE NATION 3 Nov]* 27
Frayj Sees Election as 'Setback' for Peace 27
Palestinian 'Independence' Document Reported *[MA'ARIV 3 Nov]* 28
Palestinians Voice 'Apprehension' Over Likud Win *[THE NATION 3 Nov]* 28
Alignment Loses 30 Percent of Prior Arab Support *[HA'ARETZ 3 Nov]* 28
Jerusalem Arabic on Arab Stand on Elections 29
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 29
9 Wounded in Gaza Strip 29
Curfews, Blockade Lifted 30
Army Chief of Staff Interviewed *[Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE 28 Oct]* 30
Defense Secretary Carlucci Arrives on 2-Day Visit 31
Shevardnadze: Jewish Emigration To Continue 31

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns From Iraq Visit 3 Nov 32
FRG Official Discusses Agricultural Cooperation *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Nov]* 32
Holds News Briefing, Departs 32
Al-Rifa'i, Al-Masri Receive Arab League Chief 32
Columnist Comments on Israeli Election Results *[AL-RA'Y 3 Nov]* 32
JORDAN TIMES on Results *[3 Nov]* 33

LEBANON

Al-Husayni: No Alternative to Syrian-U.S. Plan 35
Cabinet Asks 'Usayran To Reorganize Army Affairs *[VOM]* 35
Sami al-Khatib Appointed Chief of Staff 35
Junblatt Dismisses Rapprochement With 'Awn *[VOM]* 36
Islamic Grouping Comments on Junblatt Statement *[VOL]* 36
Muslim Scholars React to Junblatt Statement *[VOL]* 36

Shi'ite Movement Responds to Birri Accusations *[VOL]* 37
Amal Accuses Fatah of Reinforcing Tyre *[RFL]* 37
Paqraduni Urges Timetable for Syrian Withdrawal *[RFL]* 37
Palestinian Camps Anticipate New Israeli Raids *[RFL]* 37
Complaint Lodged With UN About Israeli Raids 37
Large Arms Shipment Arrives in Juniyah *[VOM]* 37

SYRIA

Reportage on Reaction to Israeli Elections 38
Information Minister Comments 38
Press Views Outcome 38
Radio Sees 'No Surprise' 39
Peace 'Has Not Triumphed' 40
More on Visit by Cypriot Parliamentary Delegation 41
Meets Officials 41
Received by Al-Asad 41
Delegation Departs 2 Nov 41
Al-Shar' Receives UN Envoy Aime 2 Nov 41
Burkinabe Foreign Minister Leaves for Home 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Chief of Staff on New Weapons From USSR 42
Weapons Exercise Held 42
'Powerful Missile' Hits Base of 'Extremists' *[TASS]* 42
Mujahidin Capture Khyber Pass Checkpoint 2 Nov *[AFP]* 43
Fighting Erupts Around Qandahar Airport *[AFP]* 43
'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Provinces 44
110th Protest Note Submitted to UNGOMAP 44
Protest Note No 111 Submitted 45
Pakistani Minister's Statement Protested 45
Islamic Movement Official on Soviet Compensation *[IRNA]* 45
Nezamuddin Tahzib Appointed Chief Justice 45

Bangladesh

'Opposition' Protests U.S. Naval Ship's Visit *[AFP]* 46
Ershad Returns Home From PRC Working Visit 46

India

Illegal Import of Norwegian Heavy Water Denied 46
Gandhi on PRC Border, Pakistan, Domestic Issues 46
Rao Previews Gandhi PRC Visit, Border Issue *[AFP]* 46
Rao on Pakistan's Denial of Aiding 'Terrorists' 47
President's Rule in Punjab Extended 6 Months 47
14 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab 3 Nov 47

Iran

Reportage on 'Plenary' Peace Talks in Geneva 47
Iraq Urges POW Exchange 47
POW's Linked to Withdrawal 48
Carlucci Affirms Plan To Retain Mideast Fleet 49
2d U.S. Warship Leaves Gulf 49

Commentary on Anniversary of U.S Embassy Takeover 49
Commentary on Iraq's Debts, Ties With U.S. 50
Omani Minister, Khamene'i Discuss OPEC, Ties 50
Economic Council Approves 5-Year Plan 51
Majlis Deputies Debate Reconstruction *[KEYHAN 15 Oct]* 51

Maldives

Reportage on Coup Attempt Against President 55
Gayoom, Ministers 'Safe' *[Delhi]* 55
'No Orders' for Indian Navy *[AFP]* 55
AFP Updates Situation 55
Indian Assistance Sought *[AFP]* 56
India Sending Paratroopers *[AFP]* 57
U.S. 'in Touch' With Officials *[AFP]* 57
UK Asked for Assistance *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 57

Pakistan

Afghan MiG-23 Shot Down; Pilot Arrested 57
New Aircraft 'Atlantic' Inducted Into Navy 58

Sri Lanka

Country Paralyzed as Sinhala 'Militants' Strike *[AFP]* 58
Indian Troops Kill 3 'Terrorists', Arrest 19 58

3 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0311130088 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Coalition Contacts—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Likud ministers met with leaders of the four religious parties 2 November, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that further talks on terms for joining the government were scheduled for the following day.

A related IDF radio report noted that the religious parties want cabinet seats and are demanding an amendment to the law of return regarding who is a Jew.

Shamir has also met with representatives of Tehiyah, Moledet, and Tzomet, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio.

A Likud spokesman cited by IDF radio stressed that Moledet's policy of "transfer" will "under no circumstances" be part of the operational plan of a Likud government.

As for Shim'on Peres' chances of forming a coalition, IDF radio reported that a meeting between Alignment and National Religious Party (NRP) representatives ended in "collapse" after the NRP demanded that the Alignment participate in a government led by the Likud and forgo the idea of peace in exchange for territories.

In the territories, settler leaders disclosed plans to establish 11 new settlements in November and Gush Emunim is preparing to establish a new settlement in Gaza within the next few days, according to Jerusalem radio.

Meanwhile, 19 Arabs and 1 Israeli soldier were wounded in further disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the radio said.

Moscow Talks—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze promised Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, that increased Jewish emigration will continue, IDF radio reported.

According to HA'ARETZ, Shevardnadze informed Bronfman that meetings between senior Soviet officials and Israeli representatives are expected soon.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz also met with Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials in Moscow, telling Jerusalem radio afterward that the Soviets are "receptive" to the idea of increasing outlets for Jewish culture in the USSR.

Arab Reaction to Israeli Election

The march of peace will be the first victim of the Israeli elections, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo.

He contended that Israeli voters have authorized Yitzhaq Shamir to obstruct peace and use increasing violence and savagery against the Palestinian uprising.

In contrast, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said his country will deal with any new Israeli government, stressing the election is a purely internal matter, MENA noted.

For the PLO's part, a Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary maintained that Israeli voters have elected "failure, loss, and further intransigence and extremism," adding that the result has plunged Israel into an "impasse."

In Rome, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the outcome reflects the Israeli electorate's "great confusion" about the political choices facing it, AFP reported.

'Arafat was on a brief visit to Italy for talks with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, Rome radio noted.

In Syria, Damascus radio said the results of the election are "neither surprising nor unexpected," though they have disappointed the regional and international circles hoping for political change in Israel.

An AL-BA'TH editorial carried by the radio criticized the "self-deception and ignorance" of those who pinned false hopes on the elections, stressing that the result reaffirms the need for Palestinians to seek liberation through "the militant path."

AL-THAWRAH viewed the election as evidence of an escalating trend toward extremism in the "Zionist entity."

Afghanistan

A large mujahidin military depot in Nangarhar Province was the target of a "powerful rocket strike" 2 November, TASS reported.

The location was chosen because it has been used as a storage point for weapons arriving from Pakistan, an Afghan Army commander told TASS.

Kabul radio did not report the rocket attack but announced that a "military exercise" was held to launch modern long-range weapons recently acquired from the Soviet Union.

The Army chief of staff claimed the Army has no aggressive intentions, but warned that the weapons can reach any location in Afghanistan with "extensive destructive effect."

In other developments, resistance sources cited by AFP claimed that Towr Kham, a major crossing point between Afghanistan and Pakistan, was captured along with 35 Afghan Government soldiers.

Islamabad radio reported a Pakistani F-16 shot down an Afghan MiG-23 that was violating Pakistan's airspace 3 November.

The pilot was arrested.

Lebanon

Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran is expected to appoint Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib as chief of staff, entrusted with the tasks of the Army commander, Beirut radio reported.

The appointment will be part of measures to reorganize the Army's status that were agreed on during a 2 November meeting of the Salim al-Huss cabinet in West Beirut.

In remarks cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, 'Usayran confirmed he intends to appoint a new Army commander and warned that General Michel 'Awn will be "taken to account."

A cabinet statement carried by the radio accused Gen 'Awn of involving the Army command in politics and of neglecting some brigades.

The radio also reported remarks by PSP leader Walid Junblatt denouncing attempts by "certain political circles" in West Beirut to compromise with 'Awn.

In Riyadh, GCC foreign ministers expressed support for the UAE's proposal that the Arab League hold an emergency summit meeting on Lebanon.

The call for a summit was among the issues mentioned in an official statement transmitted by SPA.

Egypt

The Supreme State Security Court decided to postpone the trial of the Egypt's Revolution group until 3 January at the defense lawyers' request, MENA reported.

The defendants will remain in custody.

The Beirut paper AL-SAFIR stated that Egyptian security police recently arrested some 350 members of a new religious organization that aims to overthrow the regime.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Oman-PDRY—A joint communique signed by Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and PDRY Presidium Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas said the two sides agreed on "most of the points" concerning the border between the two countries, Aden radio reported.

Gulf Agreement—The Iranian representative to the Marine Environment Protection Bureau session in Kuwait announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the other Gulf states to clear regional and international waters of pollution and floating debris, IRNA reported.

The representative noted that dredging the Shatt al-'Arab waterway will be addressed within the talks in Geneva.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

The 2 November talks in Geneva between Iran and Iraq focused on freedom of navigation and dredging the Shatt al-'Arab, INA reported.

The Iraqi minister of culture and information said Iran's linking the dredging of the waterway to the Algiers agreeement of 1975 will push the talks into an impasse, adding that Iraq will not bow to "blackmail."

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, also cited by INA, affirmed Iraq is ready to exchange POW's "immediately" and urged Iran not to link this issue with the other clauses of the resolution.

Iran sees this as an attempt to shift the emphasis from withdrawal of troops, which is the "most urgent" issue, IRNA reported.

Iran

Thousands of students and clergy participated in a rally in front of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran 2 November to mark the anniversary of the embassy's occupation in 1979, IRNA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Israeli Election, PNC Session

JN0211140688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 2 Nov 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said there is no difference between the Israeli Labor Party and the Likud as regards the Palestine question and said the two parties are perpetrating massacres against the Palestinian people.

In an interview published by the Iraqi magazine ALIF BA' today, 'Arafat said that the Labor Party and the Likud are cooperating in their repressive policy toward the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

'Arafat added that the dovish streak on the Labor Party's face is only designed to beautify that face before the Europeans and the Socialist International. He referred to the statement made by Shamir in which he said that he will exterminate the Palestinians and said that, in contrast, Rabin seeks to cause a greater number of injuries and casualties among the Palestinians' ranks.

'Arafat went on to say the two Zionist parties are implementing Kissinger's recommendation that calls for "killing the Palestinians, but away from TV cameras."

Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the fixing of a date for the convening of the PNC session which was scheduled to be held on 12 November was not affected by either the Israeli or U.S. elections and said the fixing of that date was caused by technical circumstances related to the host country, namely, Algeria.

'Arafat announced that four options will be presented to the PNC to discuss and make a decision about and that these options are the following: The one pertaining to international supervision over the occupied Arab territories, the one providing for the announcement of the independence declaration of the Palestinian state under occupation, the option of declaring independence and forming a provisional government, and lastly the option of forming a provisional government.

The PLO chairman said the PNC is the agency which will make a decision on the forthcoming option and added the PLO has nothing to do in this regard but to present these options. 'Arafat said that friendly and fraternal states informed the PLO of their support for the option that will be adopted by the representatives of the Palestinian people.

The PLO leader described the international situation as good, especially after the detente whose manifestations have begun to appear in many spots that used to be hot. He added that dialogues and discussions have begun to revolve around all issues in the international arena with the exception of the Palestine question and said that this is caused by the Israeli and U.S. stands.

'Arafat indicated that the Americans have begun and for the first time to speak about Palestinian rights and said that such talk was voiced by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, and also by other U.S. officials.

'Arafat Leaves Baghdad After Visit 2 Nov

JN0211152588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad today following a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by the deputy official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau at the RCC and the bureau director and members.

PLO's Hurani Comments on 'Political Program'

JN0211171288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p 21

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), Fatah Central Committee member, has asserted the PNC will be held at its fixed date and venue, namely, in Algiers on 12 November, to proclaim the establishment of the independent Palestinian state and a political working program which confirms the PLO's acceptance of any peace plan based on Palestinian national rights, particularly the right to repatriation and self-determination.

Abu Iyad expressed great astonishment about reports that the PNC session will probably be postponed and its venue changed in fear of Israeli retaliation. He said Israeli threats will not terrorize the Palestinian leadership nor deter them from convening the PNC as planned.

On the other hand, in a private statement to AL-BAYAN, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that the Palestinian leadership has set the general outlines for the statement and the political program that will be presented to the PNC and that the final draft of the statement will approved during the next few days.

Answering a question on whether there are complications or contradictions about this issue among the factions constituting the PLO, Hurani said even if there were certain differences in interpretations, there are constants which can be confirmed. These interpretations are made within, and through, the legitimate framework and there is no departing from the Palestinian unanimity and decisionmaking.

Hurani asserted that in its Call No 28, by calling on the PLO's leadership to proclaim a realistic political program, the Unified Leadership of the Uprising is in fact calling for adopting resolutions that will open horizons before the peace process and the convening of the international conference.

He added that the clarity which the Unified Leadership of the Uprising is calling for aims to end the pretexts repeated by the enemies of peace and the enemies of the Palestinian people.

The uprising's leadership also believes that by making these decisions, the PLO will isolate the enemies, create international pressure against them, and increase the number of supporters of the Palestinian struggle.

Regarding the documents of independence and the Palestinian political program, reports have said that the first document will declare an independent Palestinian state, with the demarcation of its borders to be left to the peace negotiations, while the other document will determine a number of principles for a political method leading to a peaceful solution.

Reliable Palestinian sources have said that the point that caused a problem yesterday was the following: In the independence document, should the proclamation of the state be based on UN Resolution No 181 or should it be content with stating that the proclamation of the state will be made "in light of the numerous UN resolutions, primarily Resolution No 181."

Different Palestinian sources have asserted that the political declaration is practically ready. In it, the PLO is expected to declare its support for the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist, on the condition the Palestinian people are granted their right to self-determination.

Reliable Palestinian sources have said the PFLP, led by Dr George Habash, still refuses to recognize the two mentioned resolutions. However, these sources have asserted the PFLP has said its opposition will not lead to an estrangement with the PLO and that it will only register its reservations.

PNC Members in Syria Ask To Attend Session

JN0211135688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (WAKH)—An informed Palestinian source said in a statement to WAKH in Cairo that the PLO has received a request from the PNC members residing in Syria asking the PLO to invite them to attend the PNC session to be held in Algiers.

There are 57 PNC members in Syria. These members have boycotted the PNC sessions for years in light of their differences with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian source did not rule out the possibility of postponing the PNC session if the Palestinian leadership becomes certain of the seriousness of this request to discuss all aspects related to the future of the Palestinian action in light of the current situation.

PLO Radio Views Israeli Election Results

JN0211215088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1952 GMT 2 Nov 88

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "The Palestinians Are Marching Ahead and the Enemy Is Retreating"]

[Text] Now that the initial results of the Israeli elections have appeared after sorting out 90 percent of the votes, it becomes clear that Israeli public opinion and the Israeli political forces have no clear-cut political options and even no real options.

It has also become evident that Israeli public opinion and its political forces both experience the same impasse and that both are now heading [words indistinct] for further extremism and irrationality. Indeed, we have said more than once through this radio that regardless of the Israeli election reslults, this cannot be considered a Palestinian affair. This is not only a result of the clarity of our political vision.

In his most recent press interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAH, the leader of the revolution and the people affirmed that the Israeli elections do not concern us much and what is important is that we are absolutely determined to proceed on the path of national struggle regardless of the difficulties and sacrifices to wrench all our peopl's national rights.

We wrote yesterday in our "Reading of the Political Situation" that the current session of the Zionist Knesset is the most miserable Knesset session. This is because the Israeli voter will vote for failure itself, which has exacerbated throughout this year, as he will elect political forces which say nothing, do not present specific and clear-cut political options, and do not have any clear stand toward the future.

With the appearance of the initial results of the Israeli elections, that fact has been confirmed. It has been ascertained that by distributing their votes approximately equally between the Likud and the Labor with a slight lead for the Likud, the Israeli voters have elected failure, loss, and further intransigence and extremism.

This does not mean at all that if the Israeli voters gave the majority to the Labor Party, they would have voted for success, clear-cut political option, rationality, and moderateness. This is because the Labor is the Likud's partner in everything, especially since the beginning of this year.

The Labor is an essential partner in failure, confusion, and, more importantly, in its inability to crystallize a real political option which seeks to achieve a just peace in the region. Like the Likud, the Labor has been and still is unable to say any political thing clearly toward the (?homeland).

The Labor has always been and still is, exactly like the Likud, unable to stop the great popular Palestinian uprising, unable to contain, circumvent, and abort the uprising and unable to adopt a clear-cut political stand on it.

The two parties promised their supporters to annihilate the uprising. They constantly made lavish and radical promises to destroy the uprising within a few days. There is no need to talk much about the result. Our valiant poeple's gigantic uprising is escalating daily. It is strongly and vigorously marching ahead toward its just and constant national objectives, toward its great victory, and toward the dawn of liberation and independence.

Therefore, in its new elections the enemy entity is being plunged deeply into an impasse. This confirms the essential difference between the Palestinian and Israeli state of affairs.

The Palestinians are now going to their parliament, more unified than ever before, their will, program, and option clearly defined, and firmly marching ahead toward the future and [words indistinct].

On the other hand, the Israelis are going nowhere. At the same time, they are experiencing fragmentation, loss, and darkness which dominates their political approach and all their programs.

Perhaps all these differnces futher ascertain the inevitable victory of the Palestinians because they are marching ahead while their enemy is retreating. It will continue to retreat until its certain defeat.

PPSF To Return to PLO Executive Committee

JN3010184188 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Beirut—Abu Khalid al-Shamal, Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] official in Lebanon, has denied reports of recent dissidence within the front.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he said the reports recently disseminated by the media are unfounded and fabricated and seek to harm the PPSF's unity after it had decided to reassume its militant position within the PLO.

Abu Khalid al-Shamal said the PPSF's Political Bureau has adopted a decision to return to the PLO Executive Committee.

Plot To Assassinate PLO Leaders Alleged

JN0311120888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p 17

[Text] The PLO command has received a very serious report stating that Israel plans to carry out a terrorist operation against PLO leaders prior to the convocation of the PNC session in Algiers on 12 November.

AL-SIYASAH has learned that the report received by the PLO command says Israeli submarines will leave occupied Palestine today for the Tunisian and Algerian coasts on a military mission that the report does not specify.

Palestinian sources said the Israeli leadership, which was greatly embarrassed by the Palestinian political move since the disengagement of the legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank, the PLO's declaration that it is ready to recognize Israel's existence within the framework of the proclamation of a Palestinian state in accordance with UN Resolution 181 of 1947, and the PLO's announcement it is ready to conduct negotiations with the Israeli Government that will be formed following the legislative elections in Israel on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and all the other international resolutions, may be thinking about committing a blatant aggression against PLO leaders prior to the convocation of the PNC session, which is expected to issue political resolutions that will realistically tackle international and regional developments and in a manner further embarrassing Israel in the eyes of international public opinion.

The Palestinian sources believe Shamir himself is behind this plan to abort any plans his opponent Shim'on Peres may have for accepting an international conference or responding to the PLO's peace peace proposals.

AL-SIYASAH has also learned that the Palestinian security organs in cooperation with the security organs in the UAE have succeeded in aborting another suspect attempt in coordination with the Greek security organs.

The sources said the Greek Embassy in Damascus received 60 applications for entry visas by persons holding UAE passports. This made the embassy officials suspicious. They contacted the UAE Embassy, which, after contacting the Interior Ministry in Abu Dhabi, informed them that the passports presented by these persons were forged.

Before the Greek Embassy was able to inform these people that their visa applications were rejected, 40 other applications were submitted to it by people who also were holding UAE passports. The Greek Embassy rejected all these applications.

Following this, coordination took place between the Palestinian and UAE security organs, and the Greek security organs were also informed about the possibility of the existence of a plan by a certain party to attack Palestinian targets in Greece.

A list of names of those who had applied for visas with the forged passports and the numbers of these passports were communicated to the Greek authorities.

In light of the discovery of part of this plan, AL-SIYASAH has learned that instructions were given to Palestinian officials wherever they may be to take the necessary precautions to counter any assassination attempt to which they may be exposed, especially since unknown foreign journalists have visited some PLO offices in several Arab countries.

The Palestinian sources believe these visits could be part of a surveillance operation within the framework of an assassination scheme.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Arab Affairs

NC0211201188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has once more underlined Egypt's desire to rally the Arabs behind a policy of support for the Palestinian position which is free from partisan and doctrinal bickering and maneuvers.

In a speech delivered tonight before the NDP Committee on Arab Affairs, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egyptian diplomacy is endeavoring to rally wide Arab support for efforts seeking the attainment of a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Abd al-Majid expressed hope that the coming phase will witness a positive move toward convening the international conference and that the Palestinian institutions will soon be able to envision the practical formulas and realistic moves suited to the coming phase.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also underlined Egypt's continued belief in the need for strong Jordanian-Palestinian ties.

'Abd al-Majid reviewed President Husni Mubarak's efforts in this respect and said that the tripartite summit held in Al-'Aqaba last month has given the efforts toward seeking a peaceful settlement the attention which they deserve.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the relations with brotherly Sudan are considered among the issues of top priority to Egyptian foreign policy.

Egypt, he said, seeks to defuse tensions in Sudan's relations with its neighboring African countries. This, 'Abd al- Majid added, would promote stability in southern Sudan.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid voiced the hope that the Iraq-Iran talks would lead to a stable and durable peace which would enable the two countries to utilize their resources for the benefit of their peoples.

'Abd al-Majid said that a stable situation in the Gulf would allow the Arabs to focus their efforts on tackling the main conflict in the region; that is, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to engage the efforts of all parties in the search for a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

'Abd al-Majid expressed regret that the Lebanese problem has not yet been solved. He recalled statements by President Mubarak that the Lebanese problem will not be solved until all foreign parties withdraw from Lebanon and refrain from interference in that country's internal affairs.

'Abd al-Majid mentioned the increasing tendency to form secondary regional groupings in the Arab world, such as the GCC and the Greater Arab Maghreb.

This tendency, he said, reflects a certain lack of inner cohesion in the Arab fold, which in turn is a result of some disruption of the relations and underpinnings of power in the Arab world over the past decade, and which resulted in reduced faith in the worth and effectiveness of joint Arab work.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is not opposed to the formation of secondary Arab groupings so long as the goal is to strengthen and promote ties between the member countries and not to isolate any certain Arab country or group of countries.

The latter case, he said, would be a waste of Arab resources, a matter which Egypt would oppose and resist.

'Abd al-Majid reviewed the accomplishments of Egyptian diplomacy regarding Arab affairs throughout this year. He pointed out that diplomatic ties between Egypt and most Arab countries have been restored and that Egypt is still adhering to its international commitments regarding the peace accords.

'Abd al-Majid also said that among the achievements of Egyptian diplomacy is the ruling in Egypt's favor passed by an international arbitration panel in the Tabah case.

The following is the text of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's speech to the NDP's Arab Affairs Committee.

Dr Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the NDP,

Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee,

Dear brothers, members of the Arab Affairs Committee,

Colleagues and brothers:

It pleases me to meet with you today at the beginning of your venerable committee's activity. The establishment of this committee as one of the NDP's political committees reflects a special interest in our pan-Arab affiliation, to which we are linked by bonds of joint Arab and Islamic culture, mutual and integrated interests, and strong geopolitical relations, and with which, above all, we share a joint and single destiny.

I am perfectly confident that, with your ideas and efforts, you will play a constructive role in forging a stronger Egyptian-Arab relationship and promoting and expanding our fateful interests in the Arab region.

Dear brothers, we are highly concerned that our foreign policy should be a faithful and committed expression of the people's free will.

We are well aware that a popular understanding and support of this policy is the best guarantee to achieve a link between the requirements of domestic action and construciton and the trends of foreign activity, in order to contribute to the solidarity of our national security and meet the need for comprehensive development in our dear homeland under the aegis of a democracy characterized by acheivement, confidence, and hope.

Dear brothers, by virtue of its political, human, and military weight, and its cultural and civilized contributions, Egypt is well qualified to play a constructive and positive role in the Arab region.

It is a region which is at the forefront of the regions we regard as connected with our vital interests. It also enjoys a special priority in the areas of our basic concerns because this region's security and national causes are also our security and our causes.

It is this fact that makes this relationship a distinctive one and makes us so concerned about preserving it.

President Husni Mubarak, with knowledge and a conscious realization of the situation of the Arab world, specified in his excellency's speech on 13 October 1987 a number of factors that represent basic premises for Egypt's Arab role and that take into account current and future requirements. Allow me to remind you of them.

First: The Arab countries should attain a joint viewpoint with regard to supreme pan-Arab objectives, particularly the manner in which the national security of the Arab nation can be preserved, perils confronted, and an integrated strategy devised to confront these perils to which all Arab countreis would be committed, regardless of the existing disagreements among them.

Second: Preserving the independence of the Arab will and seeking to provide freedom for Arab decisions.

Third: Commitment by each Arab state to respect the basic charters which were meant to govern unified Arab action, foremost of which is the Arab League Charter and the Arab Joint Defense Pact. Egypt will remain loyal and faithful to these charters.

Fourth: Commitment by all Arab states to the principle of mutual respect and non-intervention in the affairs of other states.

Fifth: The Arab countries should formulate the basis which governs the relations between them and the non-Arab countries in the region. This should be done without racism and ethnic and sectarian discrimination, and should reject the claims of regional expansionism hegemony, control, and theories of superiority.

Sixth: Seeking to strengthen the Arab front by promoting solidarity among the Arab states and settling existing conflicts among them by amicable means, without recourse to force or to foreign parties, while at the same time keeping in mind the changes that have appeared in the last two decades, which cast their shadow on the concept of an immediate and comprehensive Arab union.

Seventh: Conserving the Arab nation's resources, bolstering development in the Arab homeland, promptly acquiring modern technology, and using modern and practical production methods.

As you see, the Egyptian political leadership views these elements as a consolidated concept. This ensures a pragmatic and wise assessment of the factors that can support Arab solidarity and enhance the prospects for development and stability in the Arab region, which has all the prerequisites for facing the challenges of the future successfully.

Proceeding from this consolidated concept of Egypt's Arab role, our Arab policy strives to achieve a number of objectives, foremost of which are:

1. To work to expand the scope of Arab support for finding a peaceful and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This trend began to appear at the second Fez summit in 1982.

The achievement of this objective will strengthen the prospects for security, stability and development in the region and will enable the region to devote its resources to facing the challenges of progress.

2. To work to find suitable formulas for cooperation between Egypt and the Arab countries and for the reciprocal and consolidated application of Egyptian and Arab resources and capabilities for the benefit of all parties.

High-level joint committees have in fact been formed to follow up the progress of Egypt's relations with most of the Arab states.

3. To work to find practical concepts for Arab bilateral and collective security arrangements to face external dangers threatening our Arab region.

4. To avoid futile political and military adventures and not to slip into the trap of costly regional conflicts; at the same time to play a positive role in finding suitable solutions for these differences far from the policies of blocs, which scatter Arab efforts and invite foreign intervention in our region.

5. With its democratic atmosphere, its respect for human rights, its policy of tolerance and reconciliation, and its dislike for extremism, Egypt has become a positive example that can be emulated throughout the Arab world.

If we move to the practical aspect of our Arab policy, strengthening and developing our relations with fraternal Sudan will always remain a top Egyptian diplomatic priority.

Our national security encompasses the security of the Nile valley in the north and the south. This security concept is indivisible for two peoples who the immortal Nile, the lifeline of the two countries, has bonded in an everlasting and inseparable relationship.

Hence, our policy toward Sudan, despite the varying circumstances, is based on a number of clear constants. These include our concern for its territorial integrity, unity, and stability.

We are eager to deepen the ties between the two parts of the Nile Valley and to bypass any obstacles or temporary policy changes. From this standpoint, we are working to calm relations between fraternal Sudan and neighboring African countries, so that the situation may stabilize in southern Sudan. Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation projects are yielding fruit within the framework of the Brotherhood Charter.

The recent visit to Sudan by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi in October, in which I accompanied him, has deepened the mutual understanding of the situations and moves in the region. It has also affirmed the strong ties that join the two peoples in thick and thin.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, in addition to our continuing regional and international efforts—of which you are aware—to support the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, we also seek to establish an Arab stand that will be in solidarity with and will support the Palestinian position—a responsible stand that is divorced from party ideological maneuvers and oneupmanships.

It is on this basis that we are eager to consolidate and boost Jordanian-Palestinian ties and relations. His Majesty King Husayn's decision to sever links with the West Bank has helped rid these relations of mutual doubts, and has paved the way for more mature and lucid relations.

It has also confronted the Palestinian leaders with their historic responsibilities, and has given them a more realistic understanding of the reality of relations among the forces in the area.

The two sides feel more and more that both are inevitable partners for ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and that any Palestinian future without a strong and firm relationship with Jordan is difficult to imagine.

President Husni Mubarak's perseverance played an effective role in restoring and consolidating confidence between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders. The latest effort was the convening of the tripartite summit meeting in Al-'Aqabah last month, which gave the move toward a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict the importance it deserves.

This and the political exploitation of the courageous Palestinian uprising, which has altered the situation in the occupied territories and given strong impetus to the constructive efforts in defense of legitimate Palestinian rights, give us great hope that a positive effort will be made in the coming phase to convene an international conference to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue.

Egypt hopes that the Palestinian institutions will in the near future find realistic and practical formulas, as the coming phase requires.

However, a matter that calls for sorrow is the Lebanese problem, which remains unsolved.

President Husni Mubarak has often declared that there can be no solution to the Lebanese problem until all foreign hands are lifted from the Lebanese territory, foreign interference in Lebanon's internal affairs is halted, and the Lebanese people are left to freely choose the form and system of their government, within the framework of Lebanon's unity and its people's right to exercise sovereignty over all their national soil.

The Arab Gulf region, as you know, occupies a special place in the list of Egypt's vital interests in the Arab area. This region's stability and security is inseparable from Egypt's stability and security.

We have always opposed the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, which has harmed the lives and resources of the peoples of two Muslim countries. As you know, a positive development in this regard has been Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 on 18 July 1987, that is, one year after the resolution was issued.

Thus, the Gulf region entered a phase paving the way for guarded peace, on which difficult negotiations are taking place. We hope that these negotiations will result in the establishment of a state of firm stable peace that will enable the two states to utilize their resouces in the interests of their two peoples.

Egypt's support for Iraq stemmed from a pan-Arab basis, out of its eagerness to protect stability in the Gulf region and solidarity with the Arab Gulf states vis-a-vis the threats to which it was subjected and which affected the security of some of them.

This support has reflected positively on Egypt's Arab position and increased the awareness and feeling that Egypt cannot be ignored in the equation of forces in the area.

Undoubtedly, the stability of the situation in the Arab Gulf region will lead to the concentration of Arab efforts on the fundamental conflict in the area, namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and will push the various efforts and parties to achieve the desired peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Dear brothers, there has been much talk recently about an increasing tendency to establish regional Arab groupings like the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Greater Arab Maghreb Grouping, and others.

This tendency reflects a certain lack of inner cohesion in the Arab world as a result of the disruption in relations that occurred among the forces in the Arab area during the past decade and the loss of confidence in joint Arab action.

Thus, the Arab world is trying to divide itself into [word indistinct] and regional groupings which are undoubtedly linked to the general Arab climate amid an increasing feeling of internal and external threats.

Egypt, which is pursuing an Arab policy based on action to restore cohesion and solidarity to the Arab world and to keep it away from the specter of axes, polarization, and political maneuvers, does not object to the establishment of secondary regional Arab groupings if they truly aim to bolster and develop the relations among the member countries and not to isolate another Arab state or group of states, and will not lead to the dissipation of Arab resources—a matter which Egypt will not accept and will act to confront by all means on the basis of its eagerness to safeguard the interests of the Arab area as a whole and to strengthen its solidarity and impregnability.

Our Arab policy this year has realized a number of achievements thanks to our political leadership's wise directives, which reflect Egypt's standing and political credibility, foremost of which are:

1. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and most of the Arab states [words indistinct] our adherence to our international commitments entailed in the peace agreement—a matter which boosts regional and international confidence in our policy and respect for our commitments.

2. The resumption of Egypt's membership in numerous Arab organizations, the latest of which have been the Arab Organization for Sciences, Education, and Culture, the Arab labor organization, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Organization for Investment and Agricultural Development, and others.

This is in addition to Egypt's resumption of its membership in several non-official Arab federations, such as the Arab Doctors Federation, the Arab Federation for Sports, and other vocational and sports federations.

3. Patiently, carefully, and perseveringly, Egypt has managed to weave anew the threads of Arab and international solidarity with the Palestinian position to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

4. The issuance of the verdict of the Tabah arbitration tribunal has been a practical support for the success and viability of the comprehensive peace process and for the principle of resolving disputes by peaceful means. This will have a positive effect on the peace efforts in the area.

I would like to point out on this occasion that much of the economic aid and credit facilities Egypt has received from a number of states to promote its development efforts is an expression of these states' confidence in Egypt's positive policy and its effective role in the realization of stability and security in the Arab area.

I would also like to point out here that Egypt's Arab policy is increasingly gaining new positions daily and adding to the capabilities of supporting Egypt's regional and international status.

In conclusion, allow me, brothers, to add that the realization of the Arab world's aspirations first requires the reformulation of the concepts of joint Arab action on the basis of more genuine, rational, and realistic principles, as well as the realization of the requirements of the desired Arab future.

Talk about future ambitions should begin by thinking about action, its priorities, and assessment of its results in light of an Arab strategy that links words with action and that differentiates between what is possible and what is impossible, to emerge from the present crisis.

Mubarak Congratulates Bendjedid on National Day

NC3110123388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid the following cable on the occasion of the Algerian revolution day:

"Your Excellency, Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria: I wish to congratulate Your Excellency on the day of celebration of your country's glorious revolution, a revolution made by the heroic actions and by the sacrifice of a nation intent on liberating its national soil and attaining a free and honorable life. Please accept my sincerest regards and best wishes for health and happiness for you personally and for lasting progress and achievement for your brotherly people."

New Islamic Group Discovered; 350 Arrested

NC0311113188 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Nov 88 p 12

[Text] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—Egyptian security organs have staged a campaign of arrests that involves 350 members of a new religious organization that calls for the overthrow of the regime and propagates the ideas of the Al-Jihad organization.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry is expected to announce the seizure of this new organization in the next few days.

The campaign involved Cairo, Al-Jizah, Asyut, and Suhaj.

A number of leading figures from Islamic groups were arrested, including Husni Mahmud, Salahi Hashim, and Safiy al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman, who are prominent figures in Upper Egypt.

The arrests also involved a number of persons who took part in the demonstrations in Cairo 2 weeks ago. They were charged with causing disturbances and calling for the overthrow of the regime by force.

The situation has remained tense in Suhaj following the arrests because the search is continuing for two youths who tried to kill two Secret Service policemen last week.

UNDUGO Group Issues Final Statement

NC0211171188 Cairo MENA in English 1523 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—UNDUGO [Grouping of Nile Basin Countries] member states expressed conviction over the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East and according to the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO, to help realize a just, comprehensive, permanent and peaceful settlement in the region.

In a statement released today at the close of the meetings of the UNDUGO group fifth conference here, the member states welcomed the halting of military operations between Iraq and Iran according to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and attempts at settling the conflict peacefully.

The UNDUGO states also expressed concern over the situation in Lebanon stressing the need for supporting legitimate Lebanese institutions, withdrawing Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The UNDUGO group expressed hope that the neighbouring countries would join the group, to foster collective cooperation among the Nile basin states.

The UNDUGO praised Egypt's president, government and people for hosting its fifth conference and for the hospitality extended to members of the participating delegation.

As for the situation in South Africa, the UNDUGO group condemned the racial discrimation policy of the Pretoria regime calling on the international community to impose sanctions on South Africa.

As for Namibia, the UNDUGO group expressed its categoric support of the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence under the SWAPO, their sole legitimate representative.

The group also underlined its solidarity with the Angola Government in the negotiations, under way with the aim of reaching an agreement on the independence of Namibia in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution No 435.

Concerning the situation in Chad, the UNDUGO welcomed the renewal of the mission of the OAU specialised committee in quest of realising a settlement to the Chadian-Libyan conflict.

The group also expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by Sudan to solve the south Sudan problem through negotiations.

On the critical economic conditions in Africa, the group fully supported the holding of an international conference to tackle the problem of foreign debts as soon as possible.

The group also paid tribute to the role played by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) towards realising peace, stability and development in Africa.

As for bilateral and regional cooperation in technical fields among the UNDUGO member states, the group underlined the necessity of paying attention to infrastructure projects in land, river and air transport domains.

The group welcomed the cooperation protocol signed in June 1987 between Egypt and Zaire, referring to the necessity of having consultations and coordination among the UNDUGO states regarding adoption of joint measures for the ideal usage of water resources.

Paper on Arab Votes in Israeli Elections

JN0211193888 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p 6

[Editorial: "The Arab Vote in the Israeli Elections"]

[Text] Today, the voters in Israel will go the polls to elect the members of the 12th Knesset amid strict security measures imposed by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territory to face Palestinian reactions on election day. The Israeli authorities declared the West Bank and Gaza a closed area and isolated it from the world.

Observers are unanimous that these Israeli measures contradict with its pretext that it is an oasis of democracy in the Middle East. These measures also torpedo this claim at its basis.

This threat [as published] was in fact targeted against the Palestinian votes, which the PLO called for giving to the forces supporting a just peace among the Israeli parties.

If these votes are used properly they will produce 12 seats in the Knesset which, in light of the clear differences between the Likud and Labor parties, constitute a parliamentary force that attracts all parties.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian uprising and its repercussions were imposed on the Israeli voter regardless of his trends.

The uprising has in fact become the first topic in the electoral campaign. The voters today go the polls amid general concern and depression, as THE SUNDAY TIMES says.

Regardless of the results of the elections in Israel and whether the Likud or the Labor wins all signs show that neither of the two parties can acheive a majority in the Knesset—that is, 61 votes.

There will be another opportunity to repeat the game of coalition with minor parties as was the case during the past 4 years until the Likud and Labor reached a national unity government that had many differences in viewpoints vis-a-vis the basic issues, particularly with regard to Middle East peace.

Therefore, the importance of the Arab vote today increases in the Israeli elections and the soundness of the call by the leadership of the PLO and the uprising is confirmed so that the Arab voters would take positive stands.

Observers are confident of the increasing effect of the Arab votes on the future of peace with the increase in the number of those who go the polls today.

Daily Cited on Criticism of Shamir Remarks

NC0311082988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2311 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that the results of the Israeli elections confirmed what has been reiterated about a tangible change in the Israeli public opinion regarding the question of peace.

In a commentary entitled "The Results of the Israeli Elections Are Not the End of the Road," to be published Thursday, the paper says that these results have shown that even if there is a real change in Israeli public opinion, it is still too weak to bring about an effective change in the policy of any new Israeli government.

The paper asks the Arabs to grasp the lesson that has emerged from these elections; namely, that any change in Israel's policies and position regarding peace will not happen unless there is a unified and serious Arab action.

The paper points to the need for a strong coordinated effort to support the Palestinian uprising.

The paper expresses its disappointment at the statements made by Yitzhaq Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, in which he declared his determination to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and his commitment to seek peace.

The paper notes that this statement inherently ridicules intelligence and logic.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Says Relations With Italy 'Good'

LD0211191688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Al-Harth, [November] (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution said that political relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Italy are good as a result of the development of the economic and commerical relations between the two countries.

He explained in an interview with the Italian press over the past 2 days that Italy is the most important country in the international community in terms of economic and social relations with the Jamahiriyah.

He pointed to the presence of no less than 57 Italian companies working in Libya and the existence of contracts with them valuing 700 million Libyan dinars.

The brother leader said: "We are dismayed that these relations are built on a time-bomb and on a mine which might explode any moment due to a historic problem. This is a fundamental problem which can be divided into two parts: the first is the problem of invasion, occupation, and extermination, and the second is what happened during World War II due to the occupation and the mining of the Libyan lands and their sabotage. [no closing quote as received]

He pointed to the heavy material and human losses, traces of which are still present today.

The brother leader stressed that if Libya and Italy do not come to an agreement between themselves as states, he feared that Libyans will take revenge as individuals.

The brother leader of the revolution disclosed that he recently received a memorandum from a group of Libyans whose names he did not reveal, and who call themselves "Barbarossa."

He explained in the interview with the Italian press that this group said that if the Libyan state failed to obtain compensation and to resolve the problem with Italy, then this group will endeavor to take revenge by itself.

The brother leader pointed out that the name "Barbarossa", which is the signature used in this memorandum, means the sabotage of the Mediterranean and waging individual wars in the Mediterranean against Europe.

This is what Barbarossa, who rebelled against the Ottoman Sultan, did when he waged a guerilla war in the Mediterranean, which he regarded as a holy war against the Crusaders as punishment for attacks by European ships against North Africa.

The brother leader said: "I am afraid that Barbarossa, who registered great glories and terrified Europe, will return, and I have taken the initiative of proposing a treaty between Libya and Italy to prevent their resurgence. [no closing quote as received]

The leader explained that the treaty he proposed between Libya and Italy, on the basis of the 1956 agreement is a treaty of cooperation, friendship, and nonaggression. According to this treaty, matters of the past, such as the occupation, the extermination, and the catastrophes of World War II will be sorted out.

He said if this does not succeed, he fears that individual revenge will start, stressing that only a real solution between the Jamahiriyah and Italy will bar the reappearance of Barbarossa.

The leader pointed out that the group which signed the memorandum under the name of Barbarossa said that if the revolution does not succeed in taking revenge, after 20 years of waiting, they will be obliged to carry out revenge themselves.

The brother leader of the revolution explained that the crimes committed by Italy in Libya surpassed those committed by Britain in Egypt, France in Tunisia, or Spain and Germany in their colonies.

Those crimes, the leader said, deserve to be condemned as bestial and barbaric. He explained that the Italian people and the humanitarian and peace loving forces in the world sympathize with the Libyan people.

The brother leader welcomed the exchange of official visits between the Great Jamahiriyah and Italy and said that Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud will pay a visit to Italy on the 21st of this month and that he expects Bettino Craxi will pay a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He added that he had defined the course in his proposal which he put forward regarding the conclusion of treaty of cooperation and nonaggression.

The brother leader stressed that Italy was used as a base during the failed NATO aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said the American 6th Fleet used the Strait of Messina to delude us that the confrontation was over, but it has returned again using the Strait of Messina and has been deployed in new positions.

The brother leader stressed that the plant, which America claims to be a chemical weapons plant, is in fact only a drug factory and whoever wishes to visit this plant is free to do so.

Furthermore, the plant will be officially opened with the attendance of foreign ambassadors to confirm that it is a drugs factory. He stressed that if it were attacked, this would be an attack against a civilian plant and this would give Libya the right to attack civilian targets.

JANA Editor Criticizes VOA Commentary

LD0211201888 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's domestic affairs editor commented on a commentary yesterday by the Voice of America (VOA), which reflects the U.S. Administration's point of view, by saying:

"It seems that this radio is hooked to the habit of rumination and inserting Jamahiriyah's name in various matters that expresses only the mentality of its fabricators, which is based upon lying, counterfeiting the facts and fabricating charges against others".

He added:

"This method, pursued by the U.S. Administration and expressed by its official radio especially against Great Jamahiriyah, is a method that became exposed to the extent of disgust, repulsion and abhorrence. What provokes such feelings is the role the U.S. Administration is trying to assume by appointing itself an international ruler and judge to accuse whoever it wishes and to place a special concept of terrorism and place whoever fights its policies in the side of terrorists at a time the whole world realise—by its bitter expansion—what is the true terrorism under which it is possible to place all that the U.S. Administration had been and still is, doing terrorising, provocation and besieging all the nations that aspire independence and freedom to the extent of launching military aggression against them via the spreading of U.S. bases and fleets of horror and destruction in various regions of the globe, the backing and protection of the racist and fascist regime, the repeated attempts of conspiring to establise the progressive national regime." [sentence as received]

Al-Humaydi Cited on Maghreb Summit Prospects

PM0311092488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Al-Humaydi To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Maghreb Summit To Be Held Within Months"]

[Text] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, head of the Libyan delegation to the meetings of the Arab Maghreb political committee, said that the states of the region will hold a summit within the coming months to approve a working plan to launch the march of unity in the Arab Maghreb.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Maj al-Humaydi indicated that during the political committee's meetings it was decided to refer the recommendations of the four committees, following their approval, to the upcoming Maghreb summit.

He said, however, that certain points concerning structuring still have not been agreed upon, and the matter has now been referred to the summit, together with a note on the points of disagreement.

He pointed out that the Libyan delegation opposed the idea of calling the Arab Maghreb bloc a "community." He said he believes that the name would embody regionalism, thus intensifiying our present state of regionalism.

He added that to make that which we are aiming to achieve similar to the EC would not be in line with our Arab reality, because we are of the same stock and have the same religion and nationalism.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi said that in general the success achieved by the higher political committee constitutes progress along the road to unity. The committee has determined the features of the road and its future direction.

He concluded his remarks as follows: The various viewpoints reflect an eagerness to achieve a historic action in the Arab Maghreb as a step forward on the road to comprehensive unity.

Sudan

Parties Reject Proposal for Union With Libya

NC0211190788 Cairo MENA in English 1839 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 2 (MENA)—The Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party turned down in an official statement issued today the draft Libyan-Sudanese Unionist Action Charter presented to Sudanese political parties represented in the reconciliation government.

The opposition African parties issued another statement last night affirming rejection of the projected unity with Libya as it is not one of the issues of top priority to the Sudanese people.

The Sudanese National Party also declared its rejection of the agreement reached on unity with Libya.

The time is not ripe owing to present conditions in Sudan, the party said.

Al-Mahdi on Law to Limit Contacts With Rebels

PM0311094488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahdi: Any Contacts With Garang Without Permission Will Be Considered Punishable High Treason"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that his government is in the process of drawing up a law to control party, personal, or organizational contacts with the rebel movement led by John Garang.

He said that any contacts made with the rebel movement without the government's permission will be considered high treason. [passage omitted]

With regard to the Democratic Unionist Party's [DUP] initiative vis-a-vis the rebel movement, Al-Mahdi said:

The initiative was made before the government decided on the policy of preventing contacts with the rebel movement and concentrating on mobilization.

He added that the DUP delegation returned with a draft agreement with the rebel movement. Our reservation about the agreement is that it was reached during an escalation of military operations by the rebels.

While negotiating with one party of the government, the movement was attacking the other parties. It could have negotiated with all the parties via the government, but it chose only one party.

Al-Mahdi said that his government will voice its reservations to the DUP, encouraging it to continue its negotiations and to urge the movement to abandon its maneuvers and treat the peace issue seriously. [passage omitted]

Beda Says Contacts With SPLA 'Time-Wasting'

EA0211211988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Angelo Beda, chairman of the Southern Council, has described the individual and party initiatives to negotiate with SPLM-SPLA leader John Garang as time-wasting.

He said in a press interview that it is impossible to reach agreement with the movement inasmuch as the democratic circumstance in which we are living does not meet with the dictatorial position of the movement and that there will be no agreement unless one of the two sides changes its stand.

Beda explained that the SPLM-SPLA has violated all previous agreements and initiatives, which means there is no use for initiatives and the movement is not credible and not serious in bringing about peace.

His excellency said that the initiatives must be strong enough to lead a cease-fire although that is a difficult decision for the movement to take as soon as a party or an individual contacts it.

Beda added that the conditions are very bad and said: We are moving along a road that is parallel to the movement's road. Talk about what has been discussed with the SPLM-SPLA is merely for political standing and has no tangible benefit, he said.

Commentary on Failure of Khartoum Government

EA0211213088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Now we present you a commentary. The current demonstrations in the Sudanese capital Khartoum are nothing but an indication of the Khartoum regime's inability to solve the basic problems of the Sudanese people.

The tradition of the Khartoum rulers is that of keeping the masses in hope for a better life by deceptive flattering words, while indeed they begin to enjoy since they climbed the throne by appropriating the meager resources of our country in the addition to those gathered abroad in form of loans, aid etc. [sentence as heard]

Their inward-looking, selfish interest and greed are, as a rule, accompanied by repressive and discriminatory laws so as to bar out the entire mass of the population, the effect of which is the continuous suffering and riots in the form of struggle in different forms.

History has revealed that any struggle of the Sudanese masses, be it armed struggle or popular uprising, or a combination of both, is usually picked up and analyzed by the Khartoum regime from the sectarian point of view so as to cover the gist of such struggle, and as a means to penetrate the ranks of the suffering masses to weaken their struggle, using the natural difference, such as language, race, color, religion, geographical differences, etc.

Coupled with these is the lack of subjective factors conditioned by the historical development ot our country where over 70 percent of the population are illiterate to understand the objective reality. [sentence as heard]

The existing objective reality is that Sudan is underdeveloped, the underdevelopment of which is caused by the internal and external conditions which have led to no bread for the majority of our people.

But the rulers do not pass even a single day without putting their hands into their mouth. The objective reality is that there are people living and there are people surviving.

Therefore, dear citizens, students, workers, intelligentsia, mothers, and fathers, the political forces who believe in peace, justice, equality, and genuine democracy, we want to make it clear that, while the few selfish, greedy Sudanese are uniting against us, we must also unite as people thrown away by the regime of the day in sharing of our resources.

In making political decisions for our progress, we would like to add here that it is not enough to go to the streets angrily and call for the downfall of Sadiq's and Turabi's government, such as the case of Numayri.

But you, the suffering masses, must get prepared to be ready to take them out and take the government into your own hands. Because you are the government and nobody else.

The basis of our unity is who are the people against Sadiq's government today?

These are the students, trade union alliance, the political forces, the flooded, the drought-affected people, the unemployed, the shoemakers, people washing the cars, those called as house-boys, and on top, we have people in the organized forces (?in the Army).

Those people who understand the cause of the suffering of our people must unite and protect the people. And on top, the SPLM-SPLA, which has, since 1983, not given up even for a second, is struggling against repressive system of Khartoum.

You people in Khartoum must unite. And not only that, the struggle must be also extended to other various regions of the Sudan, especially to towns which are still under the repressive system of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

This is the only way to prevent military or civilian dictatorship, such as the one we are against today.

Therefore, organize brothers, and hit hard as SPLM-SPLA is doing in the bush.

The basis of this unity must be on the grounds that we must eat, we must drink, we must go to school, we must (?find) help and not on the basis of religion, race, etc, because such jargon has been used for a very long time and history has revealed, as I said earlier, that it is necessary to unite on the basic reality rather than on the imaginary basis.

The struggle continues and we can only achieve this victory when we are united.

Armed struggle matched with popular uprising will bring a definite and lasting victory.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Saudi Foreign Minister Addresses GCC Session

LD0111174588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1407 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 1 (KUNA)—Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council began here Tuesday their tenth extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The meeting was also attended by GCC Secretary General 'Abdullah Bisharah.

Addressing the opening session, Prince Sa'ud said the meeting is a continuation of the previous good ones, which had crystallised firmly desire and will of the region's leaders and peoples to realise the Council's noble targets.

Prince Sa'ud referred to the new situation in the Arab Gulf region emanating from readiness of Iraq and Iran to settle their dispute through negotiations in line with the Security Council Resolution Number 598 under the auspices of the United Nations and affirmed that the negotiations will have a successful end to strengthen peace in the region.

'We in the GCC, in the past have called and still continue to call for the necessity to settle this conflict and prevent bloodshed of the two Moslem peoples as well as to put an end to waste of the two country' human and material resources,' Prince Sa'ud said.

Prince Sa'ud expressed satisfaction over the two sides' recent announcement for their acceptance to exchange prisoners and said it is a positive indicator and a good initiative.

"We hope it will be followed by other steps in order to reach a just and comprehensive settlement. The need for peace is a vital demand for our Arab and Islamic nation," Prince Sa'ud said.

He reiterated the GCC support for the Palestinian peoples' uprising and their just and legitimate struggle under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative.

Referring to developments in Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud said 'We have big hopes in efforts underway in the Arab arena, aimed basically at solving this crisis. The Gulf Cooperation Council not only welcomes but calls for a collective Arab move since it will contribute effectively without doubt, in this connection,' Prince Sa'ud added.

He said one the main aims of convening the tenth meeting is to pave way for submission of recommendations of the GCC Ministerial Committees to the Supreme Council.

He addded that the meeting's agenda includes an emergency regional plan for petroleum products, a unified system for protecting national industrial products and a unified system for foreign capital investments.

Prince Sa'ud sid it will deal with the outcome of contacts held recently between representatives of the GCC and EEC in the framework of preparations for the upcoming round of trade negotiations between the two sides.

Ministers Issue Statement

LD0211125188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Nov 88

['Text' of the GCC Ministerial Council's statement issued at the end of its 10th extraordinary meeting, held 1- 2 November in Riyadh, read by GCC General Secretary 'Abdullah Bisharah]

[Text] The Ministerial Council held its 10th extraordinary session in Riyadh during the period 22-23 Rabi' al-Awwal 1409 h., corresponding to 1-2 November 1988, under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

It was attended by all members of the council in implementation of its decision made at its 28th session, which was held last September, to complete the discussion of subjects submitted by the various ministerial committees in following up their activities to realize the council's aims.

The council discussed the regional situation in the light of recent developments and the contacts currently taking place in connection with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 589.

The council, proceeding from its commitment to the policy laid down by their majesties and highnesses, stressed the necessity of implementing the resolution according to the principles it contains.

The council stressed anew its support for the efforts of the UN secretary general and his endeavors to reach permanent and comprehensive peace, which ensures stability in the region and guarantees the freedom of navigation in international waterways and the Gulf waters.

The council praised the continued and steadfast uprising in Arab Palestine and denounced the various forms persecution and oppression which the uprising is being subjected to and the Israeli aggression and recalls the resolution issued by their majesties and highnesses at the eighth GCC summit in Riyadh and the resolutions of the Algiers summit to provide political and material support for the uprising.

The council welcomed the forthcoming session of the Palestine National Council and wished it success in realizing the aims the Palestinian people aspire to under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative.

The council reviewed the situation in Lebanon in the light of existing contacts and in view of the dangerous situation in Lebanon. They reviewed the threat this constitutes to the unity, sovereignty, and independence of this fraternal country and the tension it may lead to in inter-Arab relations, in harmony with the council's policy of making efforts to realize a unity of stances among the Arab states and to treat any differences that may emerge within the Arab framework, and in appreciation of the initiative by UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, which expresses his highness's concern for Lebanon's safety and the Arab unity of stances.

The council welcomed this initiative and stressed the importance of preparing for an Arab summit by convening the Arab League Council to prepare for it. Within this framework the council supported the convening of the Arab League Council, which intends to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

The council discussed the recommendations that were submitted by the specialized ministerial committees and decided to prepare the necessary recommendations to submit them to the higher council after a review at the preparatory session, which will convene 11 December in the State of Bahrain.

Signed in Riyadh on 23 Rabi' al-Awwal 1409 h., corresponding to 2 November 1988.

Regional Marine Environment Meeting Ends

LD0111210588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1753 GMT 1 Nov 88

[By Jasim Matar]

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 1 (KUNA)—The emergency ministerial council of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment Tuesday affirmed its desire to protect the marine environment and to remove sunken ships and floating objects, which pose a threat to international navigation.

At the conclusion of its meetings, [words indistinct] last Sunday, the council entrusted the Executive Committee, chaired by Kuwaiti Planning Minister 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, with forming technical work teams, comprising specialists of the region's countries to deal with all environmental problems and set up proposals on removing water hazards.

Dr al-'Awadi, the organisation's executive secretary said that the work plan will include surveying marine zones to locate the sites of sunken ships and other water hazards and evaluating the environmental effects followed by the removal of the hazards and then submitting (?a report) within six months.

He added that the plan also urges members and international organisations to safeguard navigation in international waters and also take part in the exploration and removal process.

While praising the outcome of the meeting, Dr al-'Awadi said "We hope for the best in the current stage we live, namely peace in the region, and also hope that it will be a good start for states and peoples of the region."

The organisation groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Iraq and Iran. He said that the Executive Committee, comprising Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Bahrian, will submit its report on the wellbeing of the area within six months.

Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin had delivered speech upon the conclusion of the meeting, in which he expressed Kuwait's pleasure over hosting this meeting stressing that the organisation has realised a great accomplishment by grouping all of its members, at a time the region marches toward peace and stability.

Al-Shahin saluted the great spirit which reigned over the meeting and also the "honest desire" for joint action.

Heads of delegations for their part, separately thanked the Kuwaiti Government for hosting these meetings and also praised the fruits realised, expressing hope that this gathering would be a start toward securing navigation in the area.

Kuwait

Austria's Waldheim Ends Visit, Departs

LD0211215888 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim and the delegation accompanying him left Kuwait International Airport at 1600 today after a 3-day visit to the country. He was seen off by his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, ministers, senior state officials, and the staff of the Austrian Embassy in Kuwait.

Oman

Further on Visit by PDRY's Al-'Attas

Qabus, Al-'Attas Sign Pact

JN3110141488 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY, this afternoon signed a comprehensive pact of cooperation between the sisterly countries.

His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, state minister for foreign affairs, gave a statement following the signing ceremony. He said: The agreement covers the areas of cooperation between the sisterly countries.

His excellency added that another pact is to be signed tomorrow, Tuesday, covering certain sectors. Through this pact the future will see [words indistinct] in all of the spheres of potential cooperation. He indicated that the pact signed today covered economic and trade cooperation. [passage omitted]

3 Cooperation Pacts Signed

JN0111155588 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Three agreements were signed by the Sultanate and the PDRY in the Al-Ghabrah Guest House this morning in the areas of trade, industry, judiciary, Islamic affairs, and communications.

The first agreement on cooperation between the two countries in the trade and industrial areas was signed for the Omani side by Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce, and for the Yemeni side by Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, Central Committee member and minister of industry, trade, and supply.

Following the signing of the agreement, Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali said that the agreement is an implementation of what was contained in the agreement, which was signed yesterday by His Majesty Sultan ibn Qabus and His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas within the general agreement framework.

He pointed out he would meet with the PDRY industry, trade, and supply minister soon to draw up the broad-lines of this agreement. He added: There will be a list of commodities to be discussed by the two sides and if these lists are approved the commodities will be exchanged.

The second agreement related to cooperation between the two countries in judiciary and Islamic affairs. It was signed for the Omani side by Hilal ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib, minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, and for the Yemeni side by 'Abd al-Wasi' Salim, minister of justice and religious trust.

Following the signing of the agreement, Hilal ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib said the agreement stipulates cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the areas of judiciary and Islamic affairs.

The third agreement is related to cooperation between the two countries in the communications field. It was signed for the Omani side by Communications Minister Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi and for the Yemeni side by Transport Minister Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna.

Following the signing of the agreement, Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi said the agreement is aimed at achieving cooperation between the two countries at sea, on the ground, and in the air.

Al-'Attas Comments, Departs

JN0111145888 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY, left the country this afternoon after a 4-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

His excellency was accorded an official sendoff and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id headed those bidding him farewell. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas made a statement to the press after concluding his 4-day visit to Oman. He said: As we conclude our visit to fraternal Oman, I and my accompanying delegation would like to express our deep thanks to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the other officials in the Sultanate, and the fraternal Omani people for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to us during our visit, and the brotherly and honest feelings with which we were received and which expressed the spirit of brotherhood and cordiality between the Yemeni and Omani citizens.

In his statement, Al-'Attas said: Our visit to the Sultanate was a good opportunity for us to hold talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on future bilateral relations and ways to promote them as well as the current Arab and international situations.

We also touched on development in the Sultanate of Oman under His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's leadership. We were also pleased by the progress achieved in the various areas in the interest of the people of this fraternal country.

He added: Our visit was successful and fruitful.

He then stressed that a comprehensive cooperation agreement and other agreements were signed to open the way for closer future bilateral relations.

In his statement, he added: These agreements represent a good beginning for more brotherly contacts between our peoples and countries in light of their joint destiny and the need to promote their relations.

Concluding his statement, Al-'Attas said: We are returning to our country, carrying feelings of brotherhood and appreciation for the fraternal Omani people, with whom we maintain ties of brotherhood and good neighborliness. We wish them further progress and prosperity.

Joint Communique Issued

EA0211204988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Brothers, here is the joint communique on the visit of brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the [YSP] Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and his delegation to the Sultanate of Oman from 29 October to 1 November 1988.

Out of a desire to strengthen the historical relations which link the two fraternal peoples in the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY, out of a desire to strengthen the brotherhood and good-neighborliness between the two fraternal countries, out of awareness of the importance of contacts between the two countries for consultations and coordination with regard to issues of common interest, particularly those connected with the destiny of the Arab peoples, and out of their belief in the need to exert steady efforts to raise the level of Arab solidarity to the level of the challenges which confront our Arab peoples, His Excellency President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY led a high-level delegation on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 29 October to 1 November 1988, at the invitation of his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, who led those who welcomed the delegation on its arrival.

During the visit official talks were held between His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and His Excellency President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding. The talks were attended by officials from both fraternal countries. There was a discussion of bilateral relations to serve the common interests of the two fraternal peoples. The talks also dealt with Arab and international issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

During a review of bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the level reached by these relations in a short time, namely, since the signing of the agreement on principles signed by the two countries in Kuwait on 10 Muharram 1403 A.H., corresponding to 27 October 1982, which marked an important turn in the progress of these relations, as well as the positive steps which followed showing the true desire of the two countries to continue strengthening and developing these relations to serve the objectives and hopes of their fraternal peoples.

The Yemeni side explained the developments and achievements in the fraternal PDRY and the Omani side commended these achievements. It expressed appreciation for the efforts of the PDRY Government to achieve progress and prosperity for the fraternal Yemeni people.

The two sides studied the situation in the [Arab] peninsula and the Gulf and expressed their conviction on the need to make this region secure against everything that is likely to obstruct the development and progress of its peoples. They stressed the importance of good-neighborly relations and noninterference in the internal affairs of others among the states of the region and keeping them away from the specter of tension and conflicts.

In this regard, the two sides welcomed the efforts being made by the United Nations which were crowned by the agreement of the Iraqi Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran on UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which called for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war.

The two sides are confident about the determination of both Iraq and Iran to offer more sincere and constructive cooperation with these efforts to ensure the success of the peace negotiations so peace and stability will prevail in the entire region.

This will enable Iraq and Iran to contribute to the causes of the Islamic people and in particular it will allow fraternal Iraq to intensify efforts [word indistinct] joint Arab action to achieve the desired Arab solidarity.

On the situation in the Red Sea, the two sides expressed their concern at attempts to turn the Red Sea into a center of tension and instability. They affirmed that the security and safety of this region is the responsibility of the states bordering it.

Reviewing conditions in the Arab arena, the two sides expressed their conviction of the necessity and importance of strengthening Arab solidarity and unifying Arab energies and resources to confront all the challenges and dangers to which our Arab peoples are exposed.

In this context, the two sides stressed the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue, considering it the essence of the conflict in the Middle East issue, through allowing the Palestinian Arab people to determine their destiny and build an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

The two sides see the importance of holding an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned on an equal footing, including the PLO—the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people—under the supervision and participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council to achieve a just and permanent solution to the Middle East issue.

While following the developments of the conditions in the occupied territories, they expressed their support for the [word indistinct] uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. They condemned the acts of repression and persecution being practiced by the occupation forces against the Palestinian Arab people which contradict human rights and international charters and rules.

On the situation in Lebanon, the two sides affirm the need to preserve the Arabism and unity of Lebanon and its independence and sovereignty and to restore security

and stability. In this respect, they appeal to all the Lebanese sides to find a common formula for understanding between the various groups.

The two sides also expressed their support for the steadfastness of the Lebanese forces against the Israeli occupation and their national struggle for the liberation of the Lebanese land.

With regard to the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the efforts exerted to clear the air and to solve all the issues of differences between the states of the region by peaceful means. They also stressed the rights of the peoples in South Africa and Namibia in their legitimate struggle against racism for restoring their legitimate rights to independence and freedom.

Concerning the situation in Afghanistan, the two sides affirmed their welcome for the Geneva agreements and they demanded their implementation by all the parties concerned in a way that will achieve the sovereignty and stability of the Afghan people.

In the sphere of international issues of common interest, the two sides emphasized the need to exert more sincere efforts to reinforce international security and peace and to stop the arms race and the need for continuing efforts to support the role of the nonaligned movement in the international arena. They expressed their satisfaction with the prevailing international detente and the tendency toward solving regional problems.

The two sides agreed on most of the points concerning the border between the two countries.

They also agreed to continue efforts by the committees tasked with completing the remaining points between them in a way guaranteeing the rights of each side.

The talks were crowned with the signing of an agreement on cooperation between the two countries and a number of other agreements in the fields of trade, transportation, communications, justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs. [passage omitted]

At the end of the discussions, His Excellency President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas expressed his great thanks and appreciation to his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and to the government and fraternal people of the Sultanate of Oman, for the Arab friendly reception and hospitality which he and the delegation accompanying him were accorded since their arrival in the good land of Oman.

He extended an invitation to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to visit his country—Democratic Yemen. His majesty accepted the invitation, expressing thanks. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives in Baghdad 2 Nov

JN0211170088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived here at noon today on a visit to Iraq.

His majesty the king was accorded an official welcome led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Also present to receive the king were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; RCC members; the director of the presidential office; cabinet ministers; the president's secretary; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn had lunch together.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held official talks with his guest His Majesty King Husayn in a closed meeting this evening.

'Aziz, Red Cross Chief Discuss POW Issue

JN0211152488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 2 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the direct talks with Iran, met here today with Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

Tariq 'Aziz said in a statement to journalists after the meeting, which lasted 1 and ½ hours, that his talks with Sommaruga were constructive. He added that he had discussed with the ICRC president and his asistants the POW issue in detail.

'Aziz said: I urged the ICRC president to be more effective with regard to this issue.

He added: I also asked him to urge the Iranians to abide by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and not to link this issue with the political and legal issues discussed in the negotiations.

'Aziz said the political and legal problems we are dealing with in the negotiations might take a long time. And this is natural in all international disputes because it takes some time to reach an agreement on them, particularly when the issue is as complicated and difficult as the Iraq-Iran dispute.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed the need to separate humanitarian issues from the negotiations.

He said: This is not an Iraqi viewpoint but what was reached and agreed upon by the international conference approximately 40 years ago with regard to the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

Tariq 'Aziz said that he calls on the international community to urge Iran abide by the international charter so they will release and exchange the POW's as soon as possible.

He added that some prisoners have been in the POW camps for 8 years and others for 7, 6, or 5 years. He said: It is time they returned to their homeland and families.

Answering a question by a journalist on POW exchanges, the Iraqi deputy prime minister said:

This depends on the Iranian Government's stand because the Iranians' response to the ICRC president does not include acceptance of the proposals on exchanging POW's.

Meanwhile, 'Aziz added, we informed the ICRC president of our acceptance of his proposals and our readiness to embark immediately on the exchange operation.

'Aziz added that the moment the Iranians accept these proposals, the two sides should sit down with ICRC officials to prepare for the POW exchange operation.

Tariq 'Aziz said: We informed Sommaruga that we can begin this operation immediately because there are a number of registered Iranians and Iraqis and the ICRC knows their location through its visits to the camps in Iraq and Iran.

'Aziz added: Therefore, the operation can start immediately if the Iranians agree to separate the issue from the negotiations and if they show firm and honest adherence to the Geneva convention.

Tariq 'Aziz earlier read a press statement to reporters renewing Iraq's welcome and acceptance of the latest initiative launched by the ICRC to expedite the process of exchanging the Iraq-Iran war's POW's.

'Aziz said that Iraq announced its acceptance of the ICRC initiative immediately after it received a memorandum in this regard on 4 October and sent a reply to the ICRC on 17 October reiterating its readiness to begin implementing operative measures pertaining to the process of exchanging POW's as proposed by the ICRC. He stressed the need to see Iran accept the initiative as well.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that as long as Iraq and Iran are signatories to the Geneva Convention of 1949, Iraq's acceptance of the ICRC initiative and its readiness to begin the process of exchanging POW's does not necessarily affect the issue of implementing the other paragraphs of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Tariq 'Aziz added that it is regrettable to see Iran thwart this humanitarian ICRC initiative, which calls for beginning the process of exchanging POW's immediately, regardless of political discussions on the other paragraphs of the resolution.

'Aziz went on to say: Instead of welcoming this humanitarian initiative on exchanging tens of thousands of POW's, Iran has attempted to confuse its citizens and the world's people by raising the issue of sick and wounded POW's while the Geneva convention stipulates that these POW's must be exchanged even before the cessation of military operations.

Tariq 'Aziz indicated that Iran is increasing the agony of the sick and wounded POW's by refusing to exchange them.

He added Iraq believes the tragedy of the POW's must not be used to instigate the world public or to obtain political concessions in the Geneva negotiations in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

New Round of Ministerial Talks Held in Geneva

JN0211163988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 2 Nov (INA)—The direct Iraq-Iran negotiations were resumed in Geneva this afternoon with a new joint ministerial session, which is the second within the framework of the third round of negotiations and the seventh since the beginning of these negotiations on 25 August.

In a short press briefing, an official at the UN European headquarters has said that the expanded negotiations session began at exactly 1600, Geneva time, the time set yesterday.

While entering the Palace of Nations, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati declined to make press statements.

Likewise, he also refused to answer a question posed by a reporter. The question was: Why does Iran oppose the exchange of POW's?

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations, arrived 10 minutes after Velayati.

Immediately upon entering the Palace of Nations through Entrance No 4, he proceeded upstairs where delegations leave for the conference hall.

The first session was held yesterday and lasted for a full 4 hours. At the end of that session, Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the two sides have agreed on a proposal he made to the effect that all sessions of this round of negotiations should be held on the ministerial level without precluding the holding of negotiations on the experts level if the need arises.

The negotiations are focusing on issues pertaining to the freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab, as these two issues are viewed as the basic prelude to enhancing the cease-fire resolution which went into effect on 20 August.

Session of Talks Concluded

JN0211205188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 2 Nov (INA)—The Iraq-Iran direct negotiations session was concluded at [time indistinct] Geneva time, 2200 Baghdad time, this evening. [passage indistinct].

The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the Iranian side was led by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The meeting was held in the presence of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the two country's delegations.

Perez de Cuellar Cited on Talks

JN0311153488 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 3, INA—Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations secretary-general announced that he would meet later today with each of Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister respectively.

Mr. de Cuellar said in a statement to the journalists at the Palace of Nations today that there might be later on a joint meeting between him and the two ministers, attended by members of the three delegations. He also pointed out that that was a mere probability.

Mr. de Cuellar could not fix date for the two meetings and also refused to give any other details saying "in case any development happens it will be announced through the information office."

The U.N. secretary general described meeting of the plenary session of the direct negotiations which took place yesterday that it was lengthy and useful and the two parties' viewpoints were clarified during it.

Concerning the joint meeting at experts level scheduled to be he'd today afternoon, Mr. de Cuellar described the two parties agreement on holding such a meeting as a good sign and said that discussing the technical details concerning the negotiations would be conducted.

It is to be mentioned that the experts joint meeting is the first of its kind between Iraq and Iran since the beginning of the first round of direct negotiations on the 25th of August.

On the other hand, it was announced today that the U.N. secretary general, had began a plenary meeting with members of the U.N. delegation to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the seniors of his advisors to discuss the issues pertaining to the negotiations.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad

JN0211174488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)— SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] arrived here at noon today.

General Jovic paid tribute to the facilities provided by the Iraqi authorities to UNIIMOG to help it perform its tasks.

In a statement to INA, he added Iraq provided UNIIMOG with all the facilities and requirements to ensure the success of its mission.

It is well known that the UNIIMOG commander has been making shuttle trips [between Baghdad and Tehran] to supervise the UN observers since the Iraq-Iran cease-fire resolution went into effect on 20 August.

In a related development, a plane chartered by the United Nations carrying technical equipment to be used by the UN observers on the Iraqi side arrived in Baghdad today.

Likud Ends Meetings With 4 Religious Parties

TA0211160988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister and a team of Likud ministers has completed today's meetings with the four religious parties. Practical questions, such as terms for joining the government and the positions requested, will be discussed tomorrow with a ministerial team headed by David Levi.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora representatives raised no demands regarding Cabinet portfolios. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], however, emphasized that it is the third largest party and should have a comparable representation.

The Likud leadership will meet with the Tehiya representatives shortly.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 2 November reports that "the leaders of the ultraorthodox parties told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today that they prefer a narrow-based government headed by him. The Likud's negotiating team has so far met with representatives of Agudat Yisra'el, the National Religious Party, SHAS, and Degel Hatora."

The report adds that the basic demands of the religious parties are that the Law of Return—regarding who is a Jew and halakic conversion—be amended, "that the sanctity of the Sabbath be honored, that the religious status quo be maintained, and that the religious parties have either six or seven portfolios in the next cabinet."]

Positions on Transfer, Elections, Coalition

TA0211175688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Likud spokesmen said today that one thing is certain: The idea of transfer will not appear in the next government's basic guidelines. Says Knesset Member Ehud Olmert:

[Begin recording] The idea of transfer will under no circumstances constitute part of the operational plan of a government to which the Likud will be party. That much I can promise you unequivocally. It is inconceivable; it stands in total opposition to our world view, belief, and Jewish and moral concepts. It will not be. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We have made no commitments to anyone, said SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz at the end of the first round of courtship of his party today. [passage omitted]

The Citizens Rights Movement this evening called on the Alignment to occupy the opposition benches and not kowtow to the religious parties. [passage omitted]

Aside from the coalition contacts, President Hayim Herzog told the prime minister today that he would not begin negotiations with representatives of the various factions before next Wednesday [9 November].

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 2 November reports that "the Center-Shinuy Movement announced this evening that it will not lend its hand to a leftist narrow-based government that includes the religious parties." It called on Shim'on Peres "to terminate his contacts with the religious parties and initiate a move to declare the government a caretaker government, led by the two major parties, that will call new elections on the basis of a change in the electoral system."

The movement "expressed its fear of religious and zealot extortion that would quickly turn the State of Israel into a Khomeyni-like halakic state, as the movement phrased it."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 2 November reports that the meeting between representatives of the National Religious Party, or NRP, and the Alignment at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv "collapsed." The NRP representatives "presented the Alignment with a demand that it participate in a government led by the Likud and that it forgo the notion of peace in exchange of territories. The Alignment rejected this demand outright. Sha'ul Yahalom, the NRP's political secretary, told our correspondent Dov Gilhar that he believes the contacts with the Alignment have shown that the differences between the Alignment and the NRP are vast."

IDF Radio continues to report that "contacts between Refa'el Eytan and his movement, Tzomet, and Yitzhaq Shamir are scheduled to take place this evening."]

Further on Contacts

TA0211191288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister has invited representatives of the Moledet and Tzomet Movements for talks tomorrow morning on the possibility of forming a coalition. This will conclude Mr Shamir's first round of talks with representatives of the right-wing bloc and the religious parties.

Differences of opinions emerged this morning between the prime minister and representatives of the National Religious Party [NRP]. Mr Shamir made clear that the Likud is not about to renege on its commitment to the Camp David Accords. The NRP representatives said that the autonomy plan means the strangling of Jewish settlements in the territories.

MAPAM's Central Committee has called on the Alignment to declare that it will not participate in a national unity government with the Likud. MAPAM goes on to say that it supports Shim'on Peres' attempts to form a

government without the Likud, but if this fails, MAPAM believes that the Alignment should stand as a firm opposition against a right-wing government. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 2 November, in a report by Jack Katzenell, adds that in its meeting with Prime Minister Shamir and the Likud representatives, SHAS, or the party of Torah Observing Sephardim, demanded the Housing Ministry portfolio as well as the Interior Ministry and Education or Religious Affairs portfolios. The NRP, says Katzenell, "is also interested in Education and Religious Affairs."

The report continues that "Tehiya, which met the Likud ministers this evening, wants the Immigration and Absorption Ministry for Ge'ula Kohen and a deputy Defense Ministry post for Yuval Ne'eman, but may settle for the Housing Ministry instead because of its influence on settlements in the territories."

The report goes on to say that "Labor leader Shim'on Peres and other party officials also held talks with the representatives of the ultra-orthodox parties. Though obstacles are blocking the way toward forming a Labor-led coalition with the participants of the small parties, further talks have been set up."

Reporter David Ze'ev adds that "the demands made by Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, and SHAS were nothing new. The Aguda told Labor passage of the Who Is a Jew amendment in the Law of Return is a prerequisite for joining a coalition. SHAS leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz said he wanted Israel to be a country with Jewish character. That would include the acceptance of Jewish law. At the top of the list—limiting the Law of Return to orthodox conversion."

Ze'ev adds that "a SHAS spokesman told me that while the issue of portfolios was discussed in today's talks, that issue would not make or break a SHAS-Labor coalition. Even so, he said, Rabbi Peretz would like the interior minister's position which he held in the earlier days of the outgoing national unity government before the controversy over whether to state that a person is convert on his or her ID cards."

Degel Hatora, adds Ze'ev, "said that it discussed with Labor leaders general issues." An Agudat Yisra'el "official" said "the party could not be part of a government that included a woman. Labor Party working committees are to be set up to continue the discussions, but both Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin denied they were willing to form a coalition at any price."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 2 November reports that "the meeting in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem between Likud ministers and Tehiya representatives ended about an hour ago. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also attended this first meeting which centered on matters of principle. It was decided that a team to coordinate coalition negotiations would be established. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen told our correspondent after the meeting that the Tehiya has not yet provided a clear-cut response on whether or not it would support a narrow-based government. It is withholding its decision until after the agreements between the Likud and the religious parties are known. She noted that the Tehiya supports the religious status quo and opposes coercion. At the same time, it would support an amendment to the Who Is a Jew issue."]

Likud Forms Negotiating Teams

TA0211200688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Likud has appointed special teams, which include its senior ministers, to conduct the coalition negotiations.

These ministers are David Levi, Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Qatzav, Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Moda'i, and Yiga'el Hurvitz. They will hold their first meetings with the heads of the Moledet and Tzomet Movements. These will follow today's talks with the religious parties. [passage omitted]

Shamir Meets With Tzomet, Moledet on Coalition

TA0311114288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Likud ministers this morning met leaders of the Tzomet and Moledet lists, thus completing the first round of coalition talks. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan and Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi each spent about an hour at the Prime Minister's Office. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Major General Rehav'am Ze'evi, the Moledet leader, came alone to the Prime Minister's Office, even though the No 2 candidate on his list, Prof Ya'ir Sprinzak, also got into the Knesset.

Why trouble a working man just for the sake of getting acquainted? Ze'evi said. Asked what demands he put to the Likud, Gandhi—as Ze'evi is nicknamed—said: None at all. I didn't come to ask for portfolios, he said. We are only two Knesset members.

What about the transfer? we asked him. Does the prime minister accept the idea? Ask him, Ze'evi replied.

But he made it clear that he would join a Likud coalition anyway, because the Likud is opposed to territorial concessions, and this was the main thing. No playing hard to get for Gandhi. He refused to be interviewed in English, although he speaks it quite well. When I am in Los Angeles I speak in the Christian language, he said. Here I speak our ancient Hebrew language; I am proud of it.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan does not speak English, but the No 2 candidate on his list, Yo'ash Tzidon, does. I asked him what conditions Tzomet was putting for the Likud:

[Tzidon] Well, we are just studying now. There is absolutely nothing we asked.

[Katzenell] Even on the ideological plane?

[Tzidon] No, we are illuminating the issues, that's all.

[Katzenell] As the talks ended, there was a commotion outside the Prime Minister's Office when a man pulled out a knife at the security checkpoint and threatened to commit suicide. Large numbers of police arrived very quickly, and after a few minutes the man was persuaded by an inspector to come quietly. I heard the officer calling the man Shmu'el as he led him away. [end recording]

Arens Defense Minister in Shamir Cabinet

TA0311052388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Moshe Arens is slated for the post of defense minister in Yitzhaq Shamir's future cabinet. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Arens is the only Likud member who has already been assigned a portfolio. Knesset members Roni Milo, Ehud Olmert, and Dan Meridor also stand good chances of receiving portfolios in the next cabinet.

Arens Defense Post Denied

TA0311115188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] The Prime Minister's bureau chief, Yosi Ahime'ir, has categorically denied the report that the Likud leadership has already decided to give Moshe Arens the defense portfolio. Ahime'ir told reporter Jack Katzenell a short while ago the report is totally groundless and that the prime minister has not held any consultations yet on the sharing of portfolios among Likud leaders.

Herzog To Begin Faction Meetings 'Next Week'

TA0211195088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The president's office this evening explained that the report that President Herzog will not begin talks with representatives of the various factions before next Wednesday is not true.

Today the president called Justice Eli'ezer Goldberg, the chairman of the Central Elections Committee, and also telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Everything seems to indicate that Herzog will begin his series of meetings with the faction representatives early next week.

Peres Interviewed on National Unity Government

TA0211205588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 2 November; place not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Peres, are you considering the possibility of approaching the prime minister with an initiative for forming a national unity government?

[Peres] I believe that Mr Shamir has declared that he opposes this idea. I see no point in it. I do not even see a basis for such a step.

[Goren] There might be a possibility that after Shamir is asked to form a government he will approach you. What would you do then?

[Peres] I would give you a television interview.

[Goren] Mr Peres, how do you estimate your position in the Alignment Party after the results of the elections? Do you see a breaking of lines, or do you have the unanimous backing of your party members?

[Peres] I believe that all of the Alignment members, including myself, are worried by the problems Israel is faced with. This is no child's game. We have very severe economic problems. We are facing very serious political problems. I do not wish to see Israel isolated internationally.

Also, within Israeli society, as the results have shown, the people are divided in two. There is no clear cut victory for this side or the other. If you compare one political bloc with the other you will find no clear cut victory.

The bloc I belong to has 48 Knesset seats, while the one led by Shamir has 46. A very strong religious bloc has emerged, but even they are not monolithic. So, the problems are far more serious than they may appear at first glance.

Further Peres Comments

TA0311113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres is against the Alignment joining a national unity government. In a meeting this morning with Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], MAPAM, and Shinuy representatives, Peres said that it is impossible and undesirable to establish such a government.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Peres' interlocutors received the impression that Peres does not hinge great hopes on his meetings with the orthodox representatives, but wants to prevent the impression of a rift between them and the Alignment.

MAPAM representative El'azar Granot told Mr Peres that at this stage, efforts to establish a government with the religious parties should continue. Knesset Members Shulamit Aloni, Yosi Sarid, and Amnon Rubinstein, the CRM and Shinuy representatives, asked Peres not to make any promises to the orthodox parties without their knowledge.

Labor Calls for 'Major Shake-Up' in Leadership

TA0311095488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Dan Petreanu and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] As Labour leader Shim'on Peres began his coalition talks with representatives of the religious parties yesterday, members of his party were beginning to call for a "major shake-up" in reaction to Labour's failure to gain a majority in the election.

Although the Labour ministers yesterday gave Peres the green light to continue contacts with the religious parties, other party members termed the talks "useless" and expressed concern that they would serve to increase the concessions the religious parties would seek to extract from the Likud.

In the days before the election, there were growing indications that in the event of failure, many of the "second tier" party leaders would call for the leadership to retire.

On election night, the first ministers to declare their acceptance of the defeat, and their willingness to "go to the opposition seats where a new leadership will rise," were those who saw themselves as candidates for senior positions in the new leadership—men like 'Uzi Bar'am, Moshe Shahal, Rafi Edri, and Ya'aqov Tzur.

Yesterday, Tzur sounded the clearest call for an examination of the party's policies and leadership. "The Labour Party will have to undergo a radical reform as the result of a failed election strategy," he said.

Tzur said that it was a mistake to "hide major elements of the party instead of fighting for the views they represent. We ran a one-issue, personal campaign, and if we are not able to form the next government, we will have to undergo a basic self-examination," he said.

Calling the election results "the continuation of a sociological phenomenon," he warned against "trying to minimize the failure. Four electoral failures are a worrying process of deterioration of the Labour movement."

Number-nine candidate Ora Namir had especially harsh words for the way the campaign was run—"by advertising men and not politicians." She told THE JERUSALEM POST that the party should now "undergo a house-cleaning, something more than personal self-examinations."

Namir blasted the "miscalculation of placing Peres and the diplomatic issue at the centre of the entire election," and "focusing everything on the 'new faces' instead of the second-tier leadership, who would have been far more prepared to provide answers for the pressing questions. The new-faces strategy fooled no one."

Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer told THE POST that Labour "charlatans are using the election failure for their own purposes before a serious investigation of what happened is complete."

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev—a frequent target of those who would like to see a change of leadership in the party—said that he "does not see a superior potential leadership on the horizon."

Asher Wallfish adds:

An undertow of dissatisfaction within the Alignment at the performance of party leaders Peres and Rabin is not expected to surface strongly until after the new coalition is formed.

Peres made enemies inside his party during the drafting of the election list, because he used his influence to keep all the ministers in, while also introducing many new faces.

This could only be achieved by squeezing out a stratum of mid-level party veterans who had traditionally been Peres's most loyal supporters.

Although the list was drawn up by a democratic process for the first time, Peres made known his personal position. In some cases he suggested that former supporters be relegated to unrealistic slots; in others, he simply failed to express support for them; and in yet others he described the dispensable candidates as "not electoral assets."

The fact that Peres exerted such leverage generated a backlash.

These middle-level candidates have not forgotten that Peres let them down after they had served him well.

Peres will also become the target of some cabinet ministers who feel they lost their posts because of their leader.

NRP To 'Demand' Education Portfolio in Cabinet

TA0311142788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] Bureau has decided to demand, by way of an ultimatum, the education portfolio in the next Cabinet. One of the NRP leaders told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the NRP considers the education portfolio a sine qua non.

If it is decided to give the NRP two cabinet portfolios, the party will demand the religious affairs, interior, or construction portfolios as the second portfolio. The NRP will also demand that one of its men be appointed to a senior post in the Agriculture Ministry.

The NRP Bureau also decided to entrust its negotiating team with the task of holding contacts aimed at establishing a broad-based and stable government in which the Alignment would also be included. The NRP reiterated that it considers a broad-based government a vital national need.

Sharon Seeks Police Post To Fight 'Subversion'

TA0311113288 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by Giyora Shamis, DEPTH News Service]

[Excerpts] Ariel Sharon, the outgoing Industry and Trade Minister wants a new Cabinet post which would put him in control of handling the intifada [uprising] in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, an of routine law enforcement in all parts of the country, political sources in Jerusalem told THE NATION.

Sharon, seeking a reward for his key role in assisting Yitzhaq Shamir's attempts to form a Likud-led government, is demanding a ministry for police and internal security with considerably expanded powers for dealing with unrest and subversion. [passage omitted]

The sources expected the Likud leader to assign defense to Moshe Arens. But if Sharon gets his way, defense will be shorn of its traditional Palestinian jurisdiction and the IDF relieved of its task policing Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

His plan calls for the expansion of the border police to replace the army in dealing with the Arab uprising, as well as Palestinian terror inside Israel.

The new defense minister would be left with an IDF with the strict military functions of defending the frontiers and preparing for war, military industry, weapons procurement and strategic relations with the United States.

The redistribution of responsibilities has been considered more than once since the outbreak of the intifada in inner consultations among three Labour leaders, Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin and Hayim Bar-Lev.

They consider the merits of a special police force would be to take off the army's shoulders the task of maintaining law and order in the administered territories.

Sharon does not expect the opposition from the left for such a post that he would get if he demanded defence. Police is considered a thankless portfolio and no prominent Likud or religious leader is likely to fight him over it.

The other two top Likud leaders, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i, are reportedly competing for the high prestige Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In the meantime, Sharon will do his level best to help Mr. Shamir build a government, the sources said.

Frayj Sees Election as 'Setback' for Peace

TA0211211288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says that the results of the Israeli elections put an end to the formula of territories for peace. Nonetheless, in an interview with our correspondent, he criticized the Arab leaders for failing to launch a political initiative to bring about a change in the Israeli public opinion. Our correspondent Gil Sadan toured Jerusalem and Bethlehem today and filed this report:

[Begin videorecording] [Sadan] [Passage omitted] In Bethlehem, Mayor Frayj suggested that Peres retreat to his own Sede Boqer [allusion to David Ben-Gurion who, upon suffering a political defeat, retired to the Negev settlement of Sede Boqer].

[Frayj—in English] I'm not very encouraged by the results of the elections. I believe the option of territory for peace was buried and is dead. I believe the ascendancy of religious parties, with my respect to these parties, will make the life of any new prime minister in Israel very difficult, their conditions, and I believe the next 4 years are going to see more trouble in the Holy Land. I believe it will be a setback for the peace process.

[Sadan—in English] In other words, intifada [uprising] at least for the next 4 years?

[Frayj—in English] There is a confrontation in the Holy Land between Israelis and Arabs that will go on for 4 years, maybe more, and it will be detrimental to the interests of both people. [passage omitted]

[Sadan] Bethlehem residents, too, speculated on the shape of the coalition, indulging in conjecture on possibilities. One of the hypothetical questions that was asked was: What would have happened if the bloody attack in Jericho [on 31 October, which left a mother and her three small children dead] had not taken place? The mayor condemned the murder and added:

[Frayj—in English] This attack, which came just 24 hours before the elections, inflamed the passions and the emotions of many people in Israel and encouraged them to vote for the right.

[Sadan—in English] Do you think the PLO could have done more to encourage leftist elements within the Israeli voters and society?

[Frayj—in English] I believe any Arab gesture or interference will not have had any positive result.

[Sadan—in English] Would not?

[Frayj—in English] No. And I would rather prefer that they did not interfere at all. Had the Arabs come out with a very strong crystal-clear peace plan 6 months ago, or a year ago, things would have been different. [end recording]

Palestinian 'Independence' Document Reported

TA0311105188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Nov 88 p A1, 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] A copy of a declaration announcing a Palestinian state, which is planned to be read on 14 November by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the speaker of the PNC, reached East Jerusalem public figures a few days ago. The declaration, which will be read to the 453 members of the Council who are to ratify it, includes the following clauses:

1. We, the Palestinian people represented in the PNC, hereby declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as the capital, based on the Palestinian people's inherent right to live in its homeland and founded on UN Resolution No. 181 of 1947.

2. The PLO is the legal and sole representative of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab and Islamic summits and the Fes summit in particular.

3. The PLO calls on its sister Arab countries, friendly states, the European countries, and especially the two superpowers to take steps to implement the Geneva agreements and the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian problem.

4. The PNC declares Palestinian national independence, while stressing that the only way to settle the conflict will involve the implementation of international resolutions through the convening of an active international conference with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with all the other parties to the conflict.

MA'ARIV has learned from PLO sources in East Jerusalem that this document takes up only one page and will be presented to all PNC members together with another page on which the map of the Palestinian state, identical to the 1947 UN partition plan, will be drawn. The PNC will convene in Algiers on 12 November.

Palestinians Voice 'Apprehension' Over Likud Win

TA0311113088 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 3 Nov 88 p 4

[Text] Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip voiced apprehension yesterday at the prospect of a Likud-led government.

"The Likud will be more violent against the Palestinian people, but violence will only engender more violence as a reaction," said Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, a Moslem leader in Gaza.

Dr. Jabi Baramaki, acting president of Bi'r Zayt University in the West Bank, said, "I may be a little apprehensive (at a Likud government), at least in the short run. In the long run it will have balance itself out.

"If the Likud does not come up with any clear position leading to peaceful settlement of the situation, they will come under tremendous pressure and something will have to give in—either change their position or maybe even hold new elections," he said.

The Likud has vowed if elected to use tougher measures to crush the intifada [uprising] but has not specified what it would do.

The strong showing of right-wing parties like Tzomet, Tehiya and Moledet—which advocate mass expulsion of Palestinians—increased Ara fears of more confrontation.

But some Palestinians said they preferred a Likud government to the stalemate of the current national unity government.

"With the Labor Party in opposition we will see much more local and international opposition, and the Likud is in fact more responsive to local and international pressure than Labor," said lawyer Jonathan Kutab.

Many Palestinians expressed their distrust of Labor's desire or ability to deliver on promises to advance the peace process.

"The move in Israel to the right reflects the Israeli fear of the challenge of peace," said Hanan Ashrawi, a poet and professor at Bi'r Zayt. "It also shows that Israelis are not ready for peace and territorial compromise," she said.

Alignment Loses 30 Percent of Prior Arab Support

TA0311144988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 88 p 3

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] The events in the territories this year pushed Arab voters to the left, far away from the ruling parties. Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah realized this early on and was quick to separate himself from the Alignment, his former faction, and set up his one-man faction.

He reaped the fruit this week as over 25,000 voters cast their ballots for returning him to the 12th Knesset as the representative of the Arab Democratic Party.

HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], and the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], also made gains although the PLP was disappointed when its allies in the Islamic Movement decided at the last minute not to support it.

The early "flirtation" between the PLP and the Muslim Movement also put off many Christian voters. HADASH added to its Knesset faction Hashim Mahamid, the Umm al-Fahm mayor.

Young people and many of the educated in the Arab sector were impressed by the activities of Yosi Sarid and 'Oded Zucker and voted for them. The CRM this time won more than five times the number of votes it got 4 years ago. It went up from 2,000 to 10,000 voters.

The Druze did not achieve any Knesset representation for the first time since the 2d Knesset in 1951. Their "certain" candidate, the head of the Julis local council, was not elected on the Alignment ticket. Zaydan 'Atshah, number four on the Center-Shinuy list, was also not elected.

It should be pointed out that despite the differences among the Druze before the elections, many identified as Likud supporters voted for the Alignment so that their representative, Salah Tarif, would get into the Knesset.

The Alignment this time received over 10,000 votes among the Druze, almost double the number 4 years ago.

The MAPAM (Muslim) candidate was elected mainly due to the votes of his Jewish friends.

The Alignment lost some 30 percent of its electorate in the Arab sector compared to the elections 4 years ago. Most of these votes went to Darawshah. Only several thousand went to MAPAM.

Altogether, seven Arabs were elected to the 12th Knesset, the same figure as in the 11th Knesset.

Jerusalem Arabic on Arab Stand on Elections

JN0211171388 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 2 Nov 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Over the past years and decades prior to the general elections which were held in Israel yesterday, Arab mass media used to say that the Likud and alignment parties are two faces of the same coin.

The main objective behind reversing this tone is to cast doubts on Israel's desire for peace and for a finding a realistic and honorable solution to the Palestinian problem, whether the Israeli Government is an Alignment or a Likud government.

Contrary to the past, the Israeli election campaign witnessed public and flagrant interference by the Arab side. This flagrant interference reached the extent that some top Arab officials began to make public statements heard by the entire world affirming that a victory by the Likud under Shamir will be a definite recipe for disaster.

Regardless of the results of the Israeli elections yesterday, those Arab officials and mass media must be told that despite all the differences between the Likud and the Alignment pertaining to political, economic, and social ideologies, the two parties are indeed two faces of the same coin regarding their sincere desire for peace.

This is a gold coin on which a constant and known fact about Israel and the Israeli people is inscribed. This fact stipulates that a true peace is the loftiest and noblest objective sought by the Israeli people. No Israeli government, regardless of its ideological character or coalitive structure, and regardless of who heads it, can ever budge from this elevated noble objective, and can only make it its top priority.

Hence, the issue of a comprehensive and true peace has always been and continues to be mainly and directly connnected with good intentions and the concerned Arab rulers' readiness to find a realistic solution to the Palestinian problem. It is also connected with the Arab rulers' sincere desire to achieve a comprehensive and true peace with Israel.

In short, the government that will result from the recent elections, the Israeli transitional government, and the past and future Israeli government are indeed faces, or two faces, of the same gold coin regarding all that concerns Israel's desire—government and people—for a true peace and fruitful coexistence on the basis of mutual respect with all Arab peoples. Would that all the Arab rulers deal with Israel using this gold coin!

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

9 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA0211172688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Nine Arab residents who violated the curfew and threw stones at IDF soldiers were wounded in the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that today the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria were under a traffic blockade, and Gaza Strip refugee camps were under curfew.

During operations to enforce order and the curfews, nine locals were wounded, as said before, and evacuated to hospitals in the area. The blockade on the territories will be removed at 2300 tonight.

Curfews, Blockade Lifted

TA0311075088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] The curfew that was imposed 2 days ago on all the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip was lifted off most of the camps this morning, except for the Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, and Al-Burayj refugee camps, as well as part of the Rafah refugee camp. The blockade imposed on the entire Gaza Strip was also lifted early this morning, and many of the local inhabitants left for work in Israel.

The heavy rain in the Gaza Strip this morning helped maintain calm in the area. No disturbances have been reported today. Stores were open this morning, and public transportation is functioning normally. This is reported by our correspondent in the Gaza Strip, 'Ezra Yanuv.

Army Chief of Staff Interviewed

PM0311111688 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 28 Oct 88 pp 150-151

[Interview with Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron by Robert Lacontre—date and place not given]

[Text] LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Are your young soldiers not likely to become depressed if they are constantly involved in policing operations in the occupied territories? The Israeli people now seem to be divided over what solutions to adopt.

Dan Shomron: Our army is fully capable of carrying out all the missions entrusted to it. In my view the law of the state is not a matter of technicalities. The law is a code of conduct relating to standards of behavior and moral values. The army's mission is to ensure that the inhabitants of the territories cannot use force to impose conditions on Israel which are contrary to the national interest. Anything else is a political issue.

Of course, there are people in Israel who are wondering why the army does not use more force and others who think that our army is using too much force. Our mission is to prevent violence within the framework of the law.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: What is the aim of the current uprising?

Dan Shomron: The main aim of the uprising is to organize massive demonstrations so that the world press can take photographs and discuss the issue and hence exert pressure on Israel to change its policy. However, there are no longer any such mass demonstrations.

Moreover, the insurgents wanted to prevent the workers in the territories from going to work in Israel in order to create a separate entity which would be the first step toward independence. They have failed in that too. The Arabs need to work. Finally, they were trying to decapitate the civilian administration responsible for running local affairs: education, healthcare, and so forth. This administration employs 18,000 staff in the territories.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Is the resistance better organized now?

Dan Shomron: There is no hierarchy among the insurgents. In each region there is a group which gives directives, some of which are followed and others not. They use pamphlets produced outside the territories.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Who is leading the uprising?

Dan Shomron: The PLO, but there is also an extremist Muslim group which does not accept the PLO's directives and is acting independently.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Which PLO is involved, is it the one led by 'Arafat, Habash, Hawatimah, or Jibril?

Dan Shomron: The PLO comprises different factions. As long as they can act within a general consensus, in other words progress toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the framework of the Palestinian Charter, there is no disagreement. The problems begin when, to achieve a result, the PLO, the central group, advocates the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel rather than replacing Israel.

The extremists—Habash, Hawatimah, and Jibril—then oppose it. Internal struggles then begin. This is the main reason which is preventing them from arriving at a joint decision.

Now that Jordan has withdrawn from the territories, 'Arafat is trying to establish a Palestinian entity. He accepts UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, and hopes that this will win him official U.S. recognition. This makes him an acceptable partner for negotiating with Israel. The fact remains that there have never been any elections within the PLO. We will see whether he is capable of imposing his will on other groups.

However, 'Arafat may refrain from making a decision. If he does that, he is likely to miss a unique opportunity which will never happen again.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: The events in Algeria claimed 500 lives in 3 days. Is it true that you ordered your soldiers not to fire on the demonstrators?

Dan Shomron: We treat civilians as civilians and not as armed people. We can only shoot when we are dealing with terrorists or when our lives are in danger. There are now various methods of dispersing a violent demonstration, like tear gas and rubber bullets.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Are you not now using another weapon, plastic bullets?

Dan Shomron: At a distance of less than 70 meters, they are no more dangerous than rubber bullets. The advantage of these bullets, is that the soldiers no longer have to chase demonstrators who are throwing stones or Molotov cocktails.

We demonstrated to the judge advocate general and to the government's legal council that they were no more dangerous than rubber bullets. We received legal authorization to use them. The result is that fewer people have been killed but more have been injured.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: If you have proof of a blunder, proof that a soldier deliberately fired at an unarmed civilian, is he tried?

Dan Shomron: Each time that such a case has been submitted, we have opened an inquiry. The guilty party is immediately punished, even if he is an officer.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: How can you defend Israel, which is so small, against a surprise attack?

Dan Shomron: In 1973, Egypt and Syria had gas shells and missiles. They did not use them. Why? Because they knew that we could inflict very heavy losses on them. From the strategic viewpoint, our aim is essentially defensive, because we are not trying to change the situation in the Middle East. From the operational viewpoint, the opposite is true. This is because it is only possible to win a decisive victory by taking the initiative, and hence the offensive.

Our offensive capability is entirely consistent with our concept of deterrence. When we think that war is going to break out, our aim is to take the war into enemy territory and to win a rapid and decisive military victory. In 1956, we launched a preventive attack on Egypt, which was preparing to attack us. We did the same in 1967. Our air force destroyed most of the Egyptian air force on the ground. The only time that we thought we had enough strategic depth, in 1973, and did not need to take the initiative, we paid a very high price in human lives.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Is it more difficult to be armed forces chief of staff than commander of the Entebbe operation?

Dan Shomron: Yes, it is more difficult. The role of chief of staff is not limited to a few hours. The Entebbe operation was limited in time. It took place over a very short, very intensive period. Of course, the operation was not easy, but you know that its execution went almost completely according to plan.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Has the plan for your advanced aircraft, the Lavi, been shelved once and for all?

Dan Shomron: Yes. I know that it has been turned into a political issue. It was the army which decided to halt that project. The Lavi, which was virtually in the same class and had the same technical features as your Mirage 2000, cost too much—35 million dollars.

The U.S. F-16 costs 17 million dollars. We can do a great deal with the difference. In addition, the F-16 planes can be delivered more rapidly. More than 5,000 of these planes have been manufactured in the world. We could only have produced a maximum of 100 Lavi planes.

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE: Does the army want Shamir to win the elections?

Dan Shomron: It does not make any difference. National defense problems are such that any defense minister will have to face all the problems.

Defense Secretary Carlucci Arrives on 2-Day Visit

TA0211151088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci arrived in Israel a short while ago for a 2-day visit. Carlucci, who is touring three Middle Eastern countries, arrived via Egypt.

Shevardnadze: Jewish Emigration To Continue

TA0311051888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] In Moscow today, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze promised Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, [WJC] that increased Jewish emigration will continue.

Bronfman's spokesman, Alan Steinberg, has reported that the Kremlin leaders have also permitted a Soviet Jewish representation to sit in the WJC.

The October rate of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union registered an 8-year record, totaling 2,473, of whom 78 immigrated to Israel. This was reported by the Geneva-based intergovernmental commission on emigration.

King Husayn Returns From Iraq Visit 3 Nov

JN0311163488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman from Baghdad this evening following a 2-day working visit to the Republic of Iraq. During the visit he held talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, and on their distinguished fraternal relations.

His majesty the king was welcomed at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and a number of senior civil and military officials.

His Majesty King Husayn was accorded an official departure ceremony in Baghdad. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led those who were there to see the king off. Also present were the RCC vice chairman, the first deputy prime minister, RCC members, the head of the President's Office, and the Jordanian ambassador to Baghdad.

FRG Official Discusses Agricultural Cooperation

JN0311103688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—West Germany's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaefer Wednesday discussed with Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Muraywid al-Tal bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

Special attention was given to West Germany's assistance to JCO's various cooperative societies in providing them with farm equipment and seeds.

West Germany's assistance has contributed to the JCO's operations and the cooperative movement in Jordan, Al-Tal said at the meeting.

Al-Tal expressed hope that the West German Government would extend its contribution to a project to promote cooperative communication started in 1982 involving training of Jordanian personnel in cooperative operations.

Schaefer expressed appreciation of the JCO's achievements and said that West German assistance would be continued through the project until 1990.

He said there were prospects of carrying out a more advanced project in cooperative work in cooperation with other Arab countries to be financed by West Germany.

Holds News Briefing, Departs

JN0311133688 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] West German Minister of State Mr Helmut Schaefer said at the end of his visit to Jordan that it is time to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at a press conference in Amman, Mr Schaefer underscored the need for the United States, the Soviet Union, and the European Community to exert efforts to stress the importance of convening such a conference, especially with Israel, which opposes it. He did not rule out an economic pressure on Israel and said he expected strong reactions within the European Community to Israel's rejection of convening the conference.

The West German minister said Israel's expansionist policies are unacceptable and expressed hope that the U.S. would pressure Israel to put an end to the killings and to its oppressive policies in the occupied Arab lands.

On his visit to Jordan, the West German minister said he discussed with his majesty the king, the crown prince, and senior officials the Middle East crisis and bilateral relations.

He pointed out that relations with Jordan are strong, developing steadily, and that his government will continue to extend economic aid to Jordan. The West German minister and the accompanying delegation later left Amman.

Al-Rifa'i, Al-Masri Receive Arab League Chief

JN0311165888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at the Prime Ministry this afternoon Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri was also present.

The foreign minister had earlier met in his office at noon today with the Arab League secretary general who briefed him on the results of his current visits to Arab states.

Columnist Comments on Israeli Election Results

JN0311130688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 88 p 22

["From the Present" column by Ibrahim Abu Nab: "Where Are the Intelligent People?"]

[Text] It now seems that the Palestinian bedouin in Beersheba and the Negev are more aware of what takes place in Palestine than many intellectuals and revolutionary leaders who wagered on an international conference, on Israeli democracy, and on Shim'on Peres' party winning the elections.

In the past, these bedouin used to cast most of their electoral votes for Peres' Labor Party. However, this time they cast most of their votes for the new Arab Democratic Party led by 'Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah. Darawshah himself was a member of the Labor Party but withdrew in protest for the way Yitzhaq Rabin deals with both the uprising and the people living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian bedouin gave the Likud Party more votes than those given to the Alignment or Labor Party, which has many names and forms. They did this because the Labor Party demolished more houses belonging to the bedouins—who are legal Israeli citizens—than those demolished by the Likud Party.

The Labor Party also adopted a policy to impoverish the bedouin and deport them from their own lands, which the Likud Party could not do. Moreover, the State of Israel in Ben Gurion's era was established by the Labor Party. This is also the party that fought the 1967 war, occupying Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan, and Sinai. Furthermore, it implemented the policy of building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which is now an insurmountable obstacle to peace.

Consequently, how could this party suddenly become a peace-advocating party, a transformation that would merit wagering on it? Is it because it accepted an international conference? However, the international conference accepted by the Labor Party is only a "fig leaf" for direct negotiations and for concealing the blemishes of everyone!

On the contrary, the Likud Party is a party comprised of the foolish or stupid people who do not conceal their objectives, who accepted Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and Tabah, and who carried out the foolish military invasion of Lebanon, thereby evoking wrath against Israel by the international community, including the U.S. Jewish community, which always supports Israel. These people also caused an economic crisis in Israel—the shekel became almost worthless—so Shim'on Peres had the right to say that he was the one who got Israel out of Lebanon and the economic crisis.

In the past, leaders of Fatah and the Palestinian revolution used to say they depended most on the "patriotism" of the Likud Party and on the extremism of the Israeli leadership.

But what has happened that these leaders have shifted their dependence on Israeli "democracy," elections, and the Alignment's "moderate policies"? Nothing that we can see has happened apart from the uprising. Hence, is the uprising responsible for the "the stupid ones" party winning in Israel?

Some observers believe that what happened is better for peace than if Peres' party had won for the following reasons:

First, Peres and the progressive small parties must form a strong opposition front, which has been missing in the past 4 years. This means that Rabin's iron-fist policy, directed against the uprising, should be turned into a tool to bang on tables at the Knesset in protest against the IDF actions.

Second, at a time when the Israeli Government becomes weaker on the domestic level, it will also become much weaker on the foreign level because Peres' international diplomatic relations created many "friends" for him whereas Shamir almost has no friends.

Perhaps, dealing with the stupid Israelies' party will be better for peace if the Arab leaders are actually intelligent. This is because these weak extremists may fall into the trap and they cannot drag Arabs into a mirage. For all these reasons, we do not believe that the outcome of the Israeli elections is a blow to peace efforts.

Indeed, this outcome is a blow to the efforts designed to conceal a painful situation! Now, the PNC has no room to beg for a state from the proposed international conference designed to resolve the Middle East problem. It is the uprising that should declare such a state in Palestine. Shamir says such a deed will lead to World War III.

However, we say such a deed will push the unjust state to the edge so God's promise to terminate the latter state will be fulfilled. Let the faithful ones enter the temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

JORDAN TIMES on Results

JN0311101488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Moderation vs Extremism"]

[Text] The results of the Israeli general election would tend to indicate that, at worst, a majority of Israelis adheres to rigid rightwing policies that are against peace and justice for all the peoples of the area and, at best, that the political stalemate in Israel will preclude any movement towards a negotiated Arab-Israeli settlement in the near future.

The Israeli electorate continues to reflect long-term trends that first appeared with the rise to power of the Likud in the late 1970's: a strengthening of rightwing, militaristic, and messianic sentiments, and a fragmentation of more liberal sentiments in the centre and left of the political spectrum.

In the face of a continuation of this trend, the Arab World must react in a rational and meaningful manner, one that would strengthen our long-term political aspirations while remaining faithful to the principles and concepts that have guided us to date.

The political position which the Arab World has advocated since the Fes summit of 1982 remains correct and valid. We should continue to advocate movement towards a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a manner which adheres both to Arab demands for Palestinian national rights and for the sovereign rights of existing Arab states, as well as to principles of international political legitimacy which have been universally accepted for many years.

If the people of Israel indicate that they are not yet ready for an honourable peace based on justice for all, we should take this as an opportunity to reaffirm once again our concept of peace with justice. Our concept is morally right, and one day it will also prove politically fruitful—no matter what the people of Israel do in their mood of political extremism and indecision.

Al-Husayni: No Alternative to Syrian-U.S. Plan
NC0311133588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpts] In an interview with REUTER news agency, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has said there is no alternative to the Syrian-U.S. agreement for holding the presidential elections. The solution is coming, he said, and there is no room for partitioning Lebanon. Whoever thinks of such a thing, he added, is dreaming like a child and his dreams remain childish. [passage omited]

Al-Husayni ruled out military escalation because this will hamper political activity. He expressed his readiness to set a venue for the presidential elections in any area, even on a public road, if he finds understanding on holding the elections.

Cabinet Asks 'Usayran To Reorganize Army Affairs
NC0211154188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Hisham al-Sha'ar, secretary general of the Council of Ministers, has read a statement issued after the cabinet meeting. The statement says: The Council of Ministers held a meeting at Government House this morning. It was attended by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Ministers 'Adil Usayran, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt.

The Council of Ministers discussed the general political situation, particularly the status of the military establishment in light of the Council's concern for and emphasis on the Army's unity and the need to keep it apart from political disagreements and conflicts so that it may continue to be the homeland's shield. The Council of Ministers has decided the following:

The Army's status is suffering a disturbance and an imbalance resulting from the anomalous situation into which the Army command has dragged itself by involving itself in politics.

There is an accompanying absence of links between the Army command and some brigades, resulting in neglect of these brigades regarding both equipment and preparation; this has resulted in damage to the unity of the military establishment.

It is this establishment's duty at this fateful stage of the homeland's history to carry out the vital role entrusted to it in accordance with laws and regulations, particularly with respect to defending the homeland and guaranteeing the citizen's security and the state's sovereignty. The current situation cannot be allowed to continue.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers, proceeding from its concern for the Army's and consequently the state's unity, has decided to charge the minister of national defense to take the necessary measures to reorganize the Army's status.

The Council of Ministers has also discussed the electric power supply situation in Lebanon, particularly the status of the generators in Al-Jiyah and Al-Zuq. It decided to establish two technical committees to examine these generators, to specify the damage, and to submit a report that includes necessary proposals to the minister of hudroelectric resources so that work can begin on reparing the faulty generators.

Minister of Defense 'Adil 'Usayran held a news conference after the cabinet meeting. Answering a question on the appointment of a new Army commander, he said: The authorization I have been given is general and includes the organization of Army affairs. An Army commander will be appointed this week.

Responding to another question, 'Usayran said: The dialogue is always open.

Concerning General 'Awn's actions he remarked: There will be a response and he will be taken to account.

Minister Nabih Birri said: The Council of Ministers has charged Minister 'Adil 'Usayran with the task of reorganizing Army affairs and maintaining its steadfastness. We were unanimous in giving him this authority. Birri added that the step was taken because the Army in the nationalist and Islamic areas is suffering from deprivation of equipment and even foodstuffs.

Birri described the cabinet session as positive and declared that the military government is adopting partitionist measures which we cannot imitate. We are trying to maintain the country's unity while they are pressing ahead with its partition, he declared.

Sami al-Khatib Appointed Chief of Staff
NC0311071988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpts] At the end of its meeting yesterday, the Council of Ministers decided to charge Minister of National Defense 'Adil 'Usayran to take the necessary measures to reorganize the Army's status. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the defense minister is expected to execute his task either today or tomorrow. The task provides for appointing Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib as chief of staff, entrusted with the tasks of the Army commander.

Junblatt Dismisses Rapprochement With 'Awn
NC0211164188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The cabinet, which is tasked by the national forces to confront the grave consequences of the alliance between Samir Ja'ja' and Michel 'Awn, has failed today to rise to the occasion and take decisive action. [passage omitted]

Minister Walid Junblatt spoke to journalists about the cabinet meeting and other domestic and regional issues. The dialogue went as follows:

Junblatt was asked about the appointments in the Army.

He replied by saying: We are waiting for the cabinet to decide on this matter. The current situation in the country is abnormal. A coup has been staged by Michel 'Awn. 'Awn has seized authority and this authority should be returned to legitimate quarters. A national Army commander should take charge of the Army before it is too late. But it seems that so far there are certain political circles in West Beirut which are wagering on Michel 'Awn.

There are go-betweens, many go-betweens, who pass every day across the museum [crossing point on Beirut's demarcation line] to take orders from Michel 'Awn. I will wait and see, but I warn now as I did before:

If something untoward occurs, I will not accept or allow this fifth column to remain in our ranks.

Junblatt was told that some people are trying to avoid escalation and preserve the unity of Lebanon's institutions.

He replied: It is not the unity of the institutions that matters here. What matters is where the Army stands. In East Beirut, the Christians have unified their military forces. We do not want to get bogged down in the sectarian mire.

We want a multi-sectarian army. But, Michel 'Awn has become an employee of Samir Ja'ja'. I want a national Army and such an Army can only be formed by the nationalists. Some are wagering and they can keep doing that if they want.

Junblatt was asked about reports that the Syrians may assemble their forces at certain points and whether he had any information on it.

He replied: I have heard nothing.

Junblatt was asked: What was the nature of your visit to Libya?

Junblatt answered: It has become clear that all this talk about an Arab summit meeting or similar emergency sessions to discuss Lebanon have come to nothing.

Junblatt added: Of course, the illusions of the Al-Aqaba summit will similarly dissipate. The Al-Aqaba waters are cool. It is good to sit there and chat with King Husayn. But the illusions of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and others will evaporate. The proof is the result of the Israeli elections. There is more of this to come. [passage omitted]

Answering another question, Junblatt said: There is no impasse. Everything is so clear. Still, some people to whom I have referred as turbans [reference to traditional headdress of Muslim scholars]—and I repeat this epithet no matter who may get angry—have wagered on the greater Lebanon and accepted its servility to the West. I do not care much about the sovereignty and independence of a greater Lebanon if that Lebanon is to remain a base for the West.

Junblatt was asked: Do you think the presidential elections will take place?

He replied: I do not think so. 'Awn has staged a coup and partitioned the country, and he is ready to expand and strike at all the Muslims and nationalists. In my opinion, this man does not want presidential elections. Besides, what are presidential elections supposed to mean without reforms and consensus on a pan-Arab policy? We do not want presidential elections.

Junblatt was queried about the state of confusion in the country.

He said: Some people here, some turbans in some dens, the Islamic Council or the so-called Islamic Grouping, are confusing the people. Let them do what they like. Their turn will come. We will leave them for now. These are not Muslims, they are employees of Michel 'Awn.

Islamic Grouping Comments on Junblatt Statement
NC0311110388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] A source in the Islamic Grouping has commented on Walid Junblatt's statement in which he attacked the Grouping. The source said Junblatt's attitude is not unusual because of his vacillating views.

The source recalled Junblatt's statement when visited Mufti Khalid during the presidential election campaign and described Mufti Khalid's stand as honest and patriotic.

Muslim Scholars React to Junblatt Statement
NC0311122788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] After visiting the mufti's office, Muslim scholars and representatives of Islamic institutuions in Lebanon have issued a statement condemning the campaigns

against the mufti's office and Islamic Grouping members, who are the symbols and legitimate representatives of the Muslims and who can speak on their behalf.

They announced their support for, and sympathy with, the Islamic Grouping, which rejects the civilian administration and return of the militias to West Beirut.

The scholars voiced their support for Dr Salim al-Huss' stand in which he denounced the attacks on the mufti's office and Islamic Grouping. The statement held Walid Junblatt responsible for any harm that may be inflicted on any member of the ulema and legitimate representatives of the Muslims.

Shi'ite Movement Responds to Birri Accusations
NC0211133088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Movement of the Protectors of the Deprived Shi'ites, [Harakat Humat al-Mahrumin al-Shi'ah] has responded to Nabih Birri's accusations concerning the murder of three Amal cadres.

In a contact with our radio, the movement said that what the Amal Movement leader had said is untrue. His statement seeks to improve his image with the Syrian leadership, after the mask on the face of Syrian intelligence had dropped. [sentence as heard]

The movement holds Birri responsible for any inter-Shi'ite battle, and stressed its rejection of terrorism and capitulation and its endorsement of justice and equality.

The movement pointed out that it is a Lebanese Shi'ite movement not affiliated to any non-Lebanon party, adding that this will be made public in a rally in the South at the end of this month.

Amal Accuses Fatah of Reinforcing Tyre
NC0311073788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Responsible sources in the Amal Movement have accused the 'Arafat-led Fatah Movement of bringing fighters and military hardware into the Tyre area. The same sources added that these weapons, particularly rockets, are being smuggled into the area concealed aboard trucks for transporting vegetables. This, the sources added, jeopardizes a possible non-aggression pact between the two parties.

Amal's head of security in the South, Abu Hasan al-Qubaysi, pointed out that the number of Fatah fighters in the Tyre area has reached 700. Their task is to facilitate the movement of Fatah men between Sidon and Tyre, in preparation for controlling the entire Tyre district.

In view of the new circumstances currently prevailing in the area, he added, Amal is thinking of continuing the restrictions imposed on the Al-Rashidiyah camp, which he described as a stronghold for 'Arafat.

The Amal organizational officer in Tyre, 'Ali Khurays, has said that a large number of the Palestinians who infiltrated into the area the last few weeks had been equipped with launchers and anti-tank weapons. He disclosed that Fatah intends to send artillery to the camps.

He accused Fatah commanders in the South, including 'Ala' Dawud Yunis and 'Abd al-Mu'ti, of preparing to create an atmosphere of tension causing the camps war to erupt anew.

Paqraduni Urges Timetable for Syrian Withdrawal
NC2910071288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 045 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has announced that any Arab summit conference convened to discuss Lebanon must draw up a timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanese territory.

He said such a summit also must discuss three other issues: the presidential election in Lebanon, the establishment of a national unity government, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 425.

Palestinian Camps Anticipate New Israeli Raids
NC0311085588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon 0845 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] A state of alert and watchfulness prevails among the Palestinian ranks east of Sidon and in nearby camps as a precaution against any possible Israeli raids in light of the continuing Israeli overflights and warship activities in the South.

Complaint Lodged With UN About Israeli Raids
NC0311074388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, informed Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of the Foreign Ministry's political affairs, last night that he has lodged a new complaint with the UN Security Council against Israel's air strikes on the outskirts of Sidon, 'Aramun, and Al-Na'imah 2 days ago. [passage omitted]

Large Arms Shipment Arrives in Juniyah
NC2810182088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Quoting sources in Beirut, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reported today that in the last few days five ships have unloaded arms and ammunition consignments in the port of Juniyah.

The paper adds that the shipment contains tanks, field and 155-mm guns, and thousands of tons of ammunition.

Reportage on Reaction to Israeli Elections

Information Minister Comments

JN0311180088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1637 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman gave an exclusive interview to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH to be published tomorrow, Friday. This is the text of the interview:

The first question: What is your comment on the results of the Israeli elections?

Answer: In our opinion, neither of the two parties competing in these elections is willing to respond to the Arabs' legitimate rights or to meet the international community's will demanding the implementation of the UN resolutions which stress Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national, legitimate rights.

The second question: Have prospects for an Israeli aggression increased?

Answer: We take this possibility into consideration in view of our knowledge of the aggressive nature of the Zionist entity.

The third question: Have we made major progress toward strategic parity?

Answer: We have achieved satisfactory progress.

The fourth question: Does the Israeli satellite constitute a major addition to Israeli military capability?

Answer: At most, the Israeli satellite can be a means for collecting information, nothing more.

Syria has considered such a project in the past before the launching of the Israeli satellite. We acquired the required potential in 1986.

However, when the issue and the practical benefits of this project were discussed, we found this project does not provide us with more valuable information than that achieved by our available means.

Therefore, it was decided to ignore the project at the present time because the launching of such a satellite will be merely an act of propaganda. We are not interested in propaganda in this area.

Press Views Outcome

JN0311084488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses in its editorial today the outcome of the Israeli elections as well as those who wagered and pinned hopes on these elections.

Under the headline "Arabs Face One and Not Two Roads," the paper says: Whether Shamir forms a government from the racist, extremist rightwing or reforms a coalition government, it will be no surprise to those who are aware of the internal political life in Israel and of the Zionist entity's goals and its racist, aggressive nature.

Those who pinned hopes on the Israeli elections have twice experienced failure and disappointment: First, when they expected a change in Israeli policy and tried to propagate the fact that the 12th Knesset would be different from other Knesset sessions; second, when they planned to make Arabs believe that both the Labor Party and Peres are doves of Israeli policy and that they seek peace and call for a settlement.

AL-BA'TH adds: The disagreement between Peres and his party on the one hand and the Likud on the other was over methods, means, and marginal matters and not over basic issues. This fact is confirmed by the noes declared by the Peres-led Labor Party prior to the elections. These noes are: No withdrawal to the 1967 borders; no to a Palestinian state; no to withdrawal from Jerusalem; and no to negotiations with the PLO. The paper adds: A careful consideration of these no's shows that they totally converge with the Likud stand.

Hence, Shamir and his Likud Party have not said anything more than that mentioned by Peres, Rabin, and their party. Both parties reject a just peace and a comprehensive solution. Consequently, the elections' outcome will have no positive effect on opening a way for international efforts designed to tackle the Middle East issue.

Moreover, the elections' outcome has once again affirmed that the basic imbalance lies in the racist Zionist ideology and in Israel's continued aggressive, fascist nature. Therefore, the pinning of hopes on impossible changes which may be made by the Israeli rulers is a form of self-deception and ignorance of facts.

On the contrary, the militant path using all means available to attain liberation and regain both rights and dignity is the realistic path which was previously followed by many peoples who confronted and triumphed over tyrant forces.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: It has become clear that the path of concessions will not bring peace or stability but tragedies, bloodshed, and inter-Arab fighting. As proved by Al-Sadat's experience and the Camp David policy, this path will also increase the Zionists' intransigence and make them more extremist, racist, and fascist.

The only path to be followed by those who seek a just peace in the Middle East is to increase adherence to their just stands and enhance their strength and determination to regain their rights based on their legitimate right to self-defense, to the liberation of their land, and to full sovereignty over it.

This is the only path to resume the building of a pan-Arab stand free of all illusions and falsehoods—a stand which emanates from the mobilization of all Arab resources and which aims to consolidate the confrontation line around Israel and also to build an Arab wall on which the Zionist aggression will founder.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today under the headline "The Hysteria of Israeli Extremism": The outcome of the 12th Knesset elections has confirmed a general tendency in the Zionist entity toward extremism.

It is true that the Alignment and the Likud are two faces of the same coin, which has an aggressive Zionist essence, yet the Likud's success and the increase in the seats of the extremist religious parties affirm this aggressive, expansionist nature which is escalating toward extremism in the Zionist entity.

Such an outcome in both the Israeli arena and the capitulationists' arena does not only prove the futility of wagering on the possibility of removing the spirit of aggression from Israeli policy but it also affirms the credibility and soundness of Syria's stands. These stands emphasize that the way to regain the land and rights is struggle and steadfastness as well as the building of strategic parity, which will deter and defeat the spirit of aggression.

Radio Sees 'No Surprise'

JN0311150188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The results of the Knesset elections in Israel have have shown a balance between the Bloc and Alignment or the so-called Likud and Ma'arakh. It seems that Yitzhaq Shamir will form the government there relying on the small parties, the majority of which are from the extremist, racist, religious parties which gained more seats than before.

Whether Shamir forms a government from the racist, extremist rightwing or reforms a coalition government, it will be no surprise for those who are aware of the internal political life in Israel and of the Zionist entity's goals and its racist, aggressive nature.

Those who pinned hopes on the Israeli elections have twice experienced failure and disappointment: First, when they expected a change in Israeli policy and tried to propagate the fact that the 12th Knesset will be different from other Knesset sessions; second, when they planned to make Arabs believe that both the Labor Party and Peres are doves of Israeli policy and that they seek peace and call for a settlement.

Those who tried to turn the decisive conflict into an electoral dispute have forgotten that the 12th Knesset, like all the Knessets with their different political trends and party forces, adhere to the usurpation of the Arab territory and is convinced of using any method to annul its identity. They have forgotten that the disagreement between Peres and his party on the one hand and the Likud on the other was over methods, means, and marginal matters and not over basic issues.

This fact is confirmed by the noes declared by the Labor party prior to the elections. These noes are: No to withdrawal to the 1967 borders; no to a Palestinian state; no to withdrawal from Jerusalem; and no to negotiations with the PLO.

A careful consideration of these noes shows that they totally converge with the Likud stand. This means that the Labor Party refuses to implement the UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory—a firm condition to achieve peace in the Middle East. This also means that the Labor Party rejects the Palestinian state, negotiations with the PLO, and Palestinian Arab people's rights that form the crux of the conflict and regional crisis.

Hence, Shamir and his Likud Party have not said anything more than that mentioned by Peres, Rabin, and their party. Both parties reject a just peace and a comprehensive solution. Consequently, the elections' outcome—whther they are in the interest of this or that party— will have no positive effect on opening a way for international efforts designed to tackle the Middle East issue.

Moreover, the recent elections' outcome has once again affirmed that the basic imbalance lies in the racist Zionist ideolgy and in Israel's continued aggressive, fascist nature.

Nothing will change if Shamir forms a coalition or an extremist government. This is because Israel's stand will continue to reject a just peace, UN resolutions on withdrawal, and the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights.

In addition to the fact that the results of the Israeli elections changed nothing in the reality of the political life in the Zionist entity, these results have deeply hit the hopes and dreams of those who were running after the liquidatory solutions. All concessions they made to the Tel Aviv rulers and their protectors did not give them any pretext to justify this running after the mirage of the liquidatory solutions.

Therefore, the pinning of hopes on impossible changes which may be made by the Israeli rulers is a form of self-deception and ignorance of facts. On the contrary, the militant path using all means available to attain liberation and regain both the rights and dignity is the realistic path which was previously followed by many peoples who confronted and triumphed over tyrant forces.

The only path to be followed by those who seek a just peace in the Middle East is to increase adherence to their just stands and enhance their strength and determination to regain their rights based on their legitimate right to self-defense, to the liberation of their land, and to a full sovereignty over it. This is the only path to resume the building of a pan-Arab stand free of all illusions and falsehoods.

This stand emanates from the mobilization of all Arab resources and aims to consolidate the confrontation line around the Israeli hotbed and also to build an Arab wall on which the Zionist aggression—the aggression which has never differentiated between one Arab and another whether he is close to or far away from the Palestinian border—will founder.

It has become clear that the path of concessions will not bring peace or stability but tragedies, bloodshed, and inter-Arab fighting. As was proved by Al-Sadat's experience and the Camp David policy, this path will also increase the Zionists' intransigence and make them more extremist, racist, and fascist. Retreat will lead to more retreats.

This abyss has no bottom and its owners have no future. Those who sow concessions and hesitation will harvest disappointment and failure. And those who defend their rights and cause with determination and persistent will be respected by the entire world and will triumph at the end. The history of people is full of lessons for those who want to learn.

Peace 'Has Not Triumphed'

JN0211162888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Israeli parliamentary elections have ended and the distribution of seats in the new Knesset has become known with a certain degree of precision.

As a result of these results, the competition between the Likud, under the leadership of Yitzhaq Shamir and the Alignment under the leadership of Shim'on Peres, to gain the absolute majority in the new Knesset, has not clearly ended in the triumph of one side over the other to allow it to form the new government alone. The seats of the Likud and the Alignment are almost equal, with Likud having one seat more.

Neither side has achieved the absolute majority, which is 61 seats, in order to form the new government. The Likud attained 39 seats from a total of 120 and the Alignment 38 seats also from a total of 120. The relative balance between the two major parties has not slipped by the observers in world media. This does not hide the fact that there was a leaning toward the extremist right manifested in the attainment by the religious, fascist, and racist parties of some 17 or 18 seats.

World media observers think it more probable that Shamir will attempt to form an extremist rightist government under his leadership and by depending on the extreme rightist parties. There are some observers who tend to think that there is no way out of the whirlwind of government formation except by re-forming a coalition government of the Likud and the Alignment under the leadership of Shamir.

Regardless of the characteristics of the new government in Israel, the results of the elections were not those in support of just and true peace in the Middle East. They were also not for the benefit of resolving the dispute between the Likud and the Alignment over the issue of an international peace conference on the Middle East and over the future of the occupied territories.

This means that the elections have not resolved the issue of finding a harmonious and stable government with a unified policy, the issue of an official Israeli stand on holding an international Middle East peace conference, or the issue of a final and clear Israeli stand over the occupied territories.

This again means that the regional and international circles, which were pinning their hopes on political change in Israel; the change which gave the upper hand to those elements deluded into thinking that they want to hold an international peace conference and participate in a serious process to find a settlement, have been greatly disappointed, because the scales have not been tipped against those opposing a peace conference under the leadership of Shamir.

At the same time, the election results leave many possibilities open for Israel's rulers to maneuver against international efforts to hold a peace conference and to put pressure on Israel to accept UN resolutions and the bases of just peace.

The Israeli rulers could hinder any serious international attempts in this field by claiming that there are disputes within the government's ranks or that the government rejects the conditions of any proposed settlement or holding new general elections to settle the issue of unifying policy and stands inside the government.

The Israeli election results are neither surprising nor unexpected, if we take into consideration the racist warlike hysteria prevalent in Israel and the action of what they call the doves in the Alignment within a small and cornered margin of the known circle of noes, which they declared openly and which made them agree with the stand of the majority of the extreme rightists on issues that decide the future, like the issue of war and peace.

By this we mean the noes of the Labor Party which say: No to the withdrawal to the 1967 borders, no to the Palestinian state, no to the withdrawal from Arab Jerusalem, no to negotiations with the PLO.

The issue of just peace has not triumphed or progressed with the results of the Israeli elections because it did not have real representatives in the major powers fighting for power and monopolizing the government shifts in Israel. If the issue of just peace has not progressed, then the issue of the extreme Zionists rebelling against the UN resolutions, denying the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and depending on the policy of power, war, occupation, and annexation, has not progressed or triumphed either, because this issue, which has been adopted by the successive Israeli governments from Ben Gurion to Shamir, has been doomed to failure.

It has entered a blocked tunnel without any hope of ever emerging or finding an opening at the end. What the radical racists in Israel have not been able to achieve in 40 years, they will not be able to achieve in the future.

More on Visit by Cypriot Parliamentary Delegation

Meets Officials

NC0211173088 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1600 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Syrian Government once again has expressed its full support for the Cypriot people's struggle.

During a meeting in Damascus with Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cyprus House of Representatives, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi agreed that pressure should be exerted on Turkey to promote a solution to the Cyprus issue. The Syrian prime minister also referred to possible sectors in which the traditional ties between Cyprus and Syria could be developed even more.

Lissaridhis also held a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who stressed that the imposition of an expansionist policy in the Middle East region should be prevented. He added that this applies both to the Syrian and Cypriot struggles. Al-Shar' further emphasized Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's support for Cyprus.

Received by Al-Asad

JN0211171688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, and his accompanying delegation at 1300 today. People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus attended.

Delegation Departs 2 Nov

JN0211194088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this evening following a 4-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; a number of People's Assembly members; the Assembly's secretary general; the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus; and 'Abd al-Fattah 'Ammurah, Syrian charge d'affaires in Cyprus.

Dr Lissaridhis made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure in visiting Syria and meeting President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: We highly praise President Hafiz al-Asad's positive contribution on both the regional and international levels.

Al-Shar' Receives UN Envoy Aime 2 Nov

JN0211192188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Jean-Claude Aime, UN secretary general's envoy. The meeting was attended by the head of Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting dealt with the situation in the region and current developments in the Lebanese arena.

Burkinabe Foreign Minister Leaves for Home

JN0311131888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Burkinabe Foreign Minister Jean Marc Palm left Damascus this morning after a 2-day visit to our country. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the director of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the chief of protocol.

Afghanistan

Chief of Staff on New Weapons From USSR

LD0211194588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan has been equipped with new advanced weapons and rockets in order to safeguard our territorial integrity and independence and to defend the country. In this connection the chief of staff of the Republic of Afghanistan's land forces [not further identified] said the following:

[Begin recording in Dari] As our compatriots know, the PDPA and government of the Republic of Afghanistan have proclaimed the humane policy of national reconciliation, as a result of which the Geneva accords were concluded between the parties.

As you have seen, in a short period of time the Soviet troops have returned to their country and the Republic of Afghanistan has earnestly implemented all the provisions of the Geneva accords. The government has accepted these accords and follows them carefully.

However, as you know, the extremists, with direct support of Pakistan and the United States, have been intensifying the imposed war. They use various weapons and vast amounts of ammunition to destroy bridges, mosques, and holy places.

As you can see, in Kabul city every single day they fire surface-to-surface missiles at the city. They spill the blood of innocent people, children, women, and elders, and cause destruction.

As a result, the Republic of Afghanistan's Army has proposed, as put forth in the statement of Esteemed Comrade Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, that the Soviet Union assist us.

The Soviet Union has given us weapons; and from the viewpoint of quality, they are the most modern weapons. With these weapons we can deliver crippling blows to the extremists wherever they are as they try to disrupt the peaceful life of our people.

As Najibullah said in his statement, our Army has no aggressive objectives and will not have them. On the basis of our defense policy, we only defend our territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and seek the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and the gains of national reconciliation.

We will use these weapons against those extremists who still want to disrupt our peaceful life.

With this weapon we can fire at any location in Afghanistan from this very point.

This is the latest weapon and operates automatically. It has a very extensive destructive effect with a medium range capability. [end recording]

Weapons Exercise Held

LD0211222888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A military exercise to launch modern weapons with long-range and powerful effect took place this afternoon.

The Afghan Armed Forces have recently been equipped with these weapons to further strengthen and safeguard our independence and territorial integrity and to foil aggression and interference from abroad.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, Afghan defense minister; Major General Zabiullah Ziarmal, director of the Defense Ministry's Political Affairs Department; Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; and deputy defense ministers attended this exercise. [passage omitted]

The defense minister, together with the top-level delegation from this ministry then inspected various weapons and watched the launching exercise. The report adds that, at the end, the defense minister assessed the launch proceedings and highly assessed the preparedness of the personnel of [word indistinct] unit.

'Powerful Missile' Hits Base of 'Extremists'

LD0211164888 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 2 TASS—A powerful missile strike shook a base of the irreconcilable opposition in the area of Marulgad [placename as received] in Nangarhar Province which borders on Pakistan.

Marulgad was not a random-chosen target, the chief of the artillery staff of the Afghan Army told TASS.

Major General M.Z. Sulemal [name as received] said that that was a large transhipment base operating there for a long time.

He described the base as sort of "accumulator" of all kinds of weapons brought into the country from Pakistani territory by extremists from the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan", the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" and other counter-revolutionary organisations.

The weapons include anti-aircraft missile complexes, ground-to-ground missiles, and thousands of mines and shells.

In October alone, 130 civilians were killed and hundreds injured in mass fire attacks at Jalalabad, centre of Nangarhar Province.

So the missile strike at Marulgad was an act of just retaliation.

The general said the Afghan Army would continue delivering such strikes at criminals sowing death on Afghan soil.

Such measures are to bring to reason extremists who reject the idea of ending the bloodshed and starting negotiations on the basis of reconciliation of all opposing forces in the country.

Mujahidin Capture Khyber Pass Checkpoint 2 Nov
BK0211133488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 2 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels captured on Wednesday Afghanistan's major checkpoint on the historic Khyber Pass border crossing with Pakistan, resistance sources said here.

The mujahidin captured the Towr Kham border post, burned the custom house and seized its passport office after heavy fighting which began late Tuesday, the sources said.

Towr Kham, near the Pakistani city of Peshawar, is the main crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The rebels said they captured at least 35 Afghan government soldiers. The rebels gave no casualty figures.

The capture of Towr Kham followed surprise guerrilla attacks at several places on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway. The fighting intensified Monday, closing the highway for the past two days, they said.

The operations on the highway were launched to mount pressure on the garrison town of Jalalabad, which is also the capital of the eastern Nangarhar Province.

The sources said the mujahidin captured on Tuesday the Basawal District headquarters, 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Jalalabad.

On their first attack Monday they captured the Landi Khyber base of the 66th Afghan Brigade, they said.

In the fighting for Basawal, the mujahidin killed some 50 Afghan soldiers and suffered 16 casualties, they said, adding that the military base was destroyed in the rocket attacks.

The guerrillas said they also seized nearby Hazar Nau and that fighting was continuing for the important Ghani Khel garrison.

The fall of Ghani Khel, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Jalalabad, would help the rebels threaten the Samar Khel base of the Afghan Army's 11th Division, they said.

Guerrilla sources said that after a series of "quick successes" on the major highway, the rebels were planning to attack the 81st Brigade Headquarters in western Hadda Farm, near Jalalabad.

The rebels said they expected no threats from the north because the Kunar Valley had been under their control for the past month.

The sources said a mujahidin push headed by the Hezb-e Eslami faction, led by Muhammad Yunis Khalis, continued both from the east and west.

Fighting Erupts Around Qandahar Airport
BK0211124588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 2 (AFP)—Fierce fighting broke out between Afghan Government troops and rebels around Qandahar Airport as newly deployed Soviet aircraft pounded positions in the southern Afghan province, rebel sources here said Wednesday.

Fighting had been heavy for the last two days in the area of Towr Kotal, 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of the Qandahar airport, sources in this bordering Pakistani city said.

Towr Kotal is located between Takhteh Pol town, which the rebels captured last month, and the airport they are threatening.

The rebel-run AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said, "mujahidin are locked in a face-to-face fight with regime troops."

It said rebels fired rockets on the Qandahar army's 7th Motorised Brigade Tuesday.

Rebel rockets also slammed the central garrison at the airport, blasting an ammunition depot causing heavy casualties.

The ammo dump blast, the second in the area in two weeks, set a large area ablaze, and smoke could be seen billowing from the site Wednesday morning, the ANA said quoting a wireless message.

The pro-resistance Afgnan Islamic press reported that the mujahidin had fired 150 rockets since Sunday, destroying two jets and two helicopters at the air base.

The rebels also attacked Qandahar jail and several government posts Tuesday, causing heavy losses, it said, without giving mujahidin losses.

Other resistance sources said fighting intensified as MiG-27 aircraft flown from Soviet bases carried out "indiscriminate" air strikes on mujahidin positions in a 20-kilometer (12-mile) radius around the city and Qandahar airport.

Western diplomats here confirmed that the Soviet Union concentrated massive firepower in the Qandahar region and deployed advanced MiG-27 jets, low-level attack aircraft and Backfire bombers. They said the Soviet operation sought to stem the guerrillas' advance and support the regime in Kabul.

The Soviet forces have also moved long-range surface-to-surface missiles into Afghanistan. On Tuesday they flew SS-1 SCUD-B model missiles in Kabul in an apparent show of strength, snarling city traffic with a flyby near the U.S. Embassy, the diplomats said.

A State Department official expressed "grave concern," saying "the display of the military hardware will only increase tension in the region," and warning that "our support for Pakistan and the mujahidin remains unshakable."

Observers said the latest Soviet deployment of materiel follows Moscow's warning last month that it would take appropriate measures to check increasing threats from the Afghan rebels.

A U.S. spokesman, questioning the Soviets' sincerity in wanting to achieve a settlement of the Afghan problem, has described the increase in Soviet firepower as "inconsistent with the Soviet undertakings in the Geneva accord providing for a phased withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan by February 15."

'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Provinces

LD0211214888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting a spokesman of the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that the Armed Forces have inflicted crushing blows on the armed extremists supported by the United States and Pakistan.

Yesterday and today in Takhar, Qandahar, 77 extremists were killed and 38 wounded. Five extremists carrying weapons were arrested.

As a result of mopping up operations by the Armed Forces in Towr Kotal and (Gardana-e Bala) regions and in Maywand District, 15 of these criminals were crushed and 26 of them were seriously injured.

During the operation three trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition, three heavy machineguns, one recoilless gun, one DShK and two enemy hideouts were destroyed. Forty surface-to-surface missiles, 20 hand grenades, and 30 rockets were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces inflicted yesterday on the satanic nests of the extremist groups in Eshkamesh District, Takhar Province, 30 extremists were crushed, 6 injured, and 5 others arrested.

As a result of this mopping-up operation, two enemy trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed and one recoilless gun, one rocket launcher, and three heavy machineguns were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces in (Khosk-e Qala) region, Takhar Province, seven extremists attached to the Gulbuddin gang, including their ringleader, Aminullah, were crushed and another six of them were injured.

Today, the Armed Forces carried out mopping up operations in Seyyed Karam and Zarmal Districts and in the suburbs of (Jaji) city, Paktia Province. As a result, 25 extremists were crushed and another 2 injured. During this operation two trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that the extremists fired surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Khowst city, martyring three of our compatriots, including children, and injuring four children. The injured were quickly taken to hospital where their condition is said to be improving.

The criminal extremists carried out an unforgiveable crime along the road between Jalalabad and Achin. These criminals planted an antivehicle mine on the public road; a bus carrying passengers hit the mine and one passenger was killed and two others including a child and a woman were injured.

Yesterday, the extremist criminals clashed with each other in Paktia Province. The dispute concerned the distribution of plundered property. As a result, several of them were either killed or injured.

For example, as a result of fighting between the Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi gangs eight men were killed including one of the ringleaders.

110th Protest Note Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD0211112388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mision in Afghanistan and Pakistan] has been informed of Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords.

The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP delivered the 110th note containing specific information on the extremists' launching of surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Kabul city.

The note says the armed extremists, who received waves of advanced weapons from Pakistan, particularly long range missiles, have killed and injured dozens of compatriots and have caused heavy material damage.

The note requests that the UNGOMAP investigate these violations and report its conclusions to the relevant parties and the UN secretary general.

Protest Note No 111 Submitted

LD0211220588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the Republic of Afghanistan has handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul the 111th note on Pakistan's violation of the provisions of the Geneva agreements.

The attention of UNGOMAP has been drawn to the irresponsible propaganda of the Pakistani authorities, particularly the recent provocative statement by the defense minister of that country, which completely contravenes the Geneva agreements.

The mission is asked to investigate these violations and inform the concerned parties and the representative of the UN secretary general of the results.

The report adds that Paragraph 10 of Article 2 of Document No 1 clearly states that the signatories to the Geneva agreements shall refrain from any hostile propaganda for the purpose of interfering in the internal and external affairs of one another.

Pakistani Minister's Statement Protested

LD0211195188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1430 today. The following points were conveyed to him by the deputy of the First Political Directorate.

The Pakistani defense minister recently made a provocative statement in contravention of the Geneva accords, showing a lack of responsibility, which was connected with the policy of Ziaul Haq on the Geneva accords and Afghanistan. Such a statmeent by a high-ranking Pakistani official is nothing short of a military and political provocation.

Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani authorities for their provocative and ill-intentioned propaganda that is contrary to the provisions of the Geneva accords. If such actions persist, responsibility for the dangerous consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Despite the continued demands and protests of the Afghan Government concerning Pakistan's violation of the provisions of the Geneva accords, Pakistan's Air Force still continues its violations and infringements. Information received by our country's responsible authorities attests to this fact.

The report concerns the landing of a Pakistani helicopter at 1400 on 29 July 1988, at (Katchori Kandaw) in (Shanwar) major district, Nangarhar Province. A so-called leader of the counterrevolutionaries disembarked in order to launch subversive operations. The report adds that the helicopter later flew toward [word indistinct].

The Republic of Afghanistan once again lodges a protest over the clear violation by the Pakistani authorities and wants to see an end to these violations. Otherwise, responsibility for the grave consequences of such violations will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Islamic Movement Official on Soviet Compensation

LD0211174888 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 2 (IRNA)—The Soviet Union's 600-million-dollar dole to its puppet regime in Kabul—when Moscow annually pockets billions of dollars by plundering mines and gas fields in northern Afghanistan—is but a deceitful propaganda ploy.

A member of the Central Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Movement, Hojjat ol-Eslam (Modarresi) told IRNA today that Moscow should compensate Afghan Muslims for nine years of military occupation and wanton destruction of the country by napalm bombs and other deadly weapons which he noted have claimed the lives of at least one million Afghans.

On the appointment of Yuliy Vorontsov—former first deputy foreign minister—as the new Russian ambassador to Kabul, he termed it as a desperate bid since Moscow has failed to achieve its military ambitions.

Hojjat ol-Eslam (Modarresi) speculated Moscow is planning to replace Najibullah by his Premier Hasan Sharq in order to form a coalition government and thereby tighten its political grip on Afghanistan.

Nezamuddin Tahzib Appointed Chief Justice

LD0211175788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] According to a decree issued by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, based on Article 20 of the Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of Courts in the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr Nezamuddin Tahzib, son of (Amir Ghows), has been appointed chief justice of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a decree issued by Esteemed Najibullah and on the basis of Article 122 of the Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of Courts in the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr 'Abdul Karim Shadan, son of (Ghulam Jaylani), has been appointed as president of the Special Court of National Security.

Bangladesh

'Opposition' Protests U.S. Naval Ship's Visit

BK0211142688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Nov 2 (AFP)—A U.S. naval frigate here on a four-day port visit has provoked anti-U.S. protest rallies in Bangladesh by a group of opposition parties, witnesses said Wednesday.

"Go back U.S. frigate—don't pollute Bangladesh," read some of the banners at a rally here Wednesday by nearly 4,000 activists of a left-wing political group which included the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

Witnesses said the rally, the biggest against the U.S.S. Barbey since it arrived Monday, was peaceful.

On Tuesday a small group of protesters belonging to student and youth wings of the CPB marched to the Chittagong Port Authority and delivered a protest note demanding the frigate's departure.

The U.S.S. Barbey's arrival drew large crowds including local journalists, diplomats and U.S. citizens, who visited the ship Tuesday at the outer anchorage, the official BSS News Agency said.

In Dhaka, where CPB activists also organised small anti-U.S. protest marches Tuesday and Wednesday, U.S. Embassy officials earlier said the U.S.S. Barbey's visit was to "enhance goodwill between the U.S. and Bangladesh, and to give the crew shore liberty." Such port visits were scheduled through host nations, they said.

Ershad Returns Home From PRC Working Visit

BK0211130688 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Bangladeshi president, Hussain Mohammad Ershad returned to Dhaka this afternoon after a 2-day working visit to China.

On arrival, he was received at the airport by Vice President Nurul Islam, members of the Cabinet, chiefs of the three services, and high civil and military officials.

India

Illegal Import of Norwegian Heavy Water Denied

BK0211155688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] India has denied a press report that it has imported heavy water illegally from Norway.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the only heavy water that India imported was from the Soviet Union for the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He said the rest of our heavy water requirement is met by domestic production.

Gandhi on PRC Border, Pakistan, Domestic Issues

BK0311090788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that sustained efforts are needed to solve the border dispute with China. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta airport last night, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the dispute is complicated and emotions are attached to it.

Mr Gandhi, however, expressed the hope that his visit to China next month will help find solutions to the border issue.

Mr Gandhi said bilateral issues might figure in his talks with Pakistani leaders during his visit there in connection with the SAARC conference.

Referring to the disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said there is a definite foreign hand behind it. He said steps have been initiated to curb the foreign power efforts to disturb peace in the region.

Replying to a number of questions, Mr Gandhi described the opposition move to unite as a failure.

On the Haldia petrochemicals and Bakreshwar thermal power projects in West Bengal, the prime minister said the Center is keen on extending financial assistance to both the projects. He said a decision will be taken soon.

When asked about the West Bengal land controversy, the prime minister made it clear that the state legislature is the competent authority to go into such matters.

He also referred to corruption charges brought against some chief ministers and said that commissions will be set up in these cases.

The prime minister was in Calcutta to inaugurate the birth centenary celebrations of the renowned scientist Dr C.V. Raman.

Rao Previews Gandhi PRC Visit, Border Issue

BK0311112388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 3 (AFP)—China and India have agreed to maintain peace on their disputed border until they work out a permanent settlement, Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told Parliament Thursday.

The two countries, whose predominantly cool relations since a 1962 border war have shown signs of thaw in recent months, have agreed to maintain "peace and tranquility" on the frontier until a "lasting, peaceful and mutually acceptable" solution is reached, Mr. Rao said.

He told the Lok Sabha, or Lower House, in a written statement that the border dispute figured in discussions between Indian Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon and Chinese officials during a recent visit to Beijing.

He added that further talks on the issue would be held when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi travels to Beijing for a visit expected this December.

Mr. Rao said India and China had in recent weeks exchanged several delegations and signed agreements relating to culture and bilateral trade in efforts to improve relations.

The two countries have held talks on cooperation in areas such as science and technology and civil aviation, and Mr. Gandhi's forthcoming visit will give added impetus to the normalisation process, the minister said.

China claims 90,000 square kilometres (36,000 square miles) of Indian territory, while India says China occupies some 38,000 square kilometres (15,200 square miles) of its land.

In the winter of 1986-87, the two countries traded accusations of border intrusions.

Mr. Gandhi, whose visit would come 34 years after his grandfather and India's first premier, Jawahar Lal Nehru, went to Beijing and 26 years after Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai came to New Delhi, has said he would make no territorial concessions to China during his trip.

Rao on Pakistan's Denial of Aiding 'Terrorists'

BK0311083488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha today that India is in touch with the Pakistani Government to put an end to the assistance provided by that country to the terrorists.

He said the evidence regarding Pakistani aid to terrorists has already been given to Islamabad through diplomatic channels.

The minister, however, said that Pakistan denied any support to extremist activities in the country. He said but in reality, such support continues unabated.

President's Rule in Punjab Extended 6 Months

BK0311125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Parliament has approved extension of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed a statutory resolution to this effect per voice vote. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, piloted the resolution in the Rajya Sabha and the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, in the Lok Sabha.

The two houses were told about the various measures taken by the government to restore normalcy in Punjab. The two houses were told of the prime minister's visit to Punjab, announcement of panchayat [local bodies] election in the state, formation of an eight-member ministerial committee, and offer of an all-party meeting marked major political initiatives by the Center to solve the Punjab problem.

However, the ministers did not agree with the opposition demand for early assembly election in Punjab, saying that the time is not ripe for holding it.

Earlier, participating in the discussion, members expressed serious concern over the continued killing of innocent people in Punjab and urged the government to take a fresh initiative to stop it.

While the ruling party members favored the extension, most of the opposition members accused the Center of prolonging it as it suited the ruling party.

The members also charged Pakistan with interfering in the internal affairs of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and for aiding and abetting the terrorists. Some of them held that India should take it up at the United Nations. A white paper on Pakistan's involvement in Punjab was demanded.

14 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab 3 Nov

BK0311130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, 14 more terrorists have been arrested by the police. This was stated by the district police chief, Mr (J.V. Verdi), while addressing a press conference in Patiala today.

The arrests were made, following a clue provided by Atinderpal Singh, a terrorist arrested last month.

Iran

Reportage on 'Plenary' Peace Talks in Geneva

Iraq Urges POW Exchange

LD0211182388 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 2, (IRNA)—Iran and Iraq began their second round of talks under United Nations mediation here Wednesday [2 November] as Baghdad urged the international community to press Iran for the release of prisoners of war.

Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz arrived on time at 4 pm local time at the Palais des Nations, U.N.'s European Headquarters, followed by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Neither minister or their delegation members made any comment as they passed waiting journalists.

"When are you going to pull out your troops from Iran," one reporter asked the Iraqi foreign minister who turned away and climbed the stairs with his team to the negotiating room.

Earlier in the day 'Aziz met the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Cornelio Sommaruga to ask him to press Iran for the immediate repatriation of POWS.

The move was seen as an attempt by Iraq to shift the emphasis from the withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognized borders, an issue considered by Iran as most urgent at this stage.

The withdrawal of troops also has the backing of the secretary general and the Security Council.

'Aziz accused Iran of "abusing" the POWS to "gain political concession" from Iraq in the negotiations. Tens of thousands of war prisoners are held by both countries.

A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry rejected the Iraqi call, saying Iran was prepared to see the prisoners home but only as part of a package plan which would include before all else the withdrawal of troops.

"At a time when there is the threat of resumption of active war, the most urgent issue is the withdrawal of forces in order to strengthen the ceasefire," Morteza Sarmadi told IRNA.

After Tuesday's plenary talks Velayati said Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan was now "on the table". He did not elaborate.

Sources close to the talks said Iraq was coming under pressure from the secretary general and the Security Council to accept the plan which calls for a pull back of troops before moving to other issues.

Neither side reported any progress after Tuesday's round which was the first since last month in New York.

However Secretary General Perez de Cuellar said there was agreement to hold only plenary talks in his presence to speed up the process.

POW's Linked to Withdrawal

LD0211204288 Tehran IRNA in English 2032 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 2, IRNA—Iran and Iraq are still divided over the next step in ending the eight year old war but their experts will meet Thursday to discuss issues in detail.

United Nations special representative Jan Eliasson added in a statement to reporters after Wednesday's talks between Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers here that the discussions had come to a point where a meeting on a technical level was necessary.

"We have had a useful meeting... we are certainly coming to a stage where we have to discuss details. The positions are still apart," he said. He would not elaborate.

The two sides with their mediator Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had agreed to hold plenary talks at ministerial level all through the present round of negotiations.

It was unclear whether the foreign ministers would hold a meeting Thursday. Eliasson said a meeting between Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq 'Aziz would be considered after the meeting of the experts.

The talks Wednesday evening at Perez de Cuellar's presence lasted more than three hours.

Before leaving the Iraqi foreign minister reminded reporters on his comment earlier on Iraq's demand for the immediate repatriation of prisoners of war.

After a meeting with the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 'Aziz had accused the Islamic Republic of using the POWS as a political tool to gain concessions at the talks.

"We are ready to do that (release POWS) immediately after the withdrawal of the forces to the internationally recognized boundries," Velayati said after Wednesday's talks. If Iraq had not created some obstacles in the way of the implementation of Resolution 598 the POWS would have been released by now, he added.

He did not rule out the possibility that the POWS could be released at the same time as the withdrawal of troops. "It depends on the decision of the secretary general that how he should want to implement his proposal," Velayati said.

He was referring to Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan which includes the release of the POWS but calls first for the strengthening of the ceasefire and the withdrawal of forces.

Thursday's talks between experts was scheduled for 3 PM local time.

Carlucci Affirms Plan To Retain Mideast Fleet
LD0211201688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Frank Carlucci, the U.S. war minister [as heard], who is on a visit to Egypt and is now in Cairo, announced today the United States will maintain its fleet of warships in the region until the establishment of a (?permanent) cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

2d U.S. Warship Leaves Gulf
LD0211153388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] According to IRNA, a U.S. Navy warship left the Persian Gulf and headed for the coast of Japan.

A U.S. Ministry [as heard] spokesman announced: The warship equipped with U.S. [word indistinct] guided missiles, left the area before its planned departure.

This is the second U.S. naval vessel to withdraw from the Persian Gulf after the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

With the withdrawal of this naval vessel, there are currently 15 other U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

Ten other U.S. vessels remain in the waters surrounding the Persian Gulf.

Commentary on Anniversary of U.S Embassy Takeover
NC0311092988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Commentary by Central News Unit research group: "4 November—Anniversary of the Occupation of the U.S. Den of Spies"]

[Text] Tomorrow is the anniversary of the occupation of the den of spies of the biggest imperialistic country in the world, the criminal United States.

This is the day when the Iranian nation focused its anger on a country, which not only pillaged Iran's resources for years during the tyrannical, monarchical regime, but has also repeatedly dug its imperialistic claws into the arms of our (?nascent) Islamic revolution.

Because the revolution's offspring forged a united front with the leadership to neutralize the plots of world oppression, the world-devourer United States was unsuccessful in carrying out its diabolical designs.

However, 4 November has been declared a day marking a national campaign against world oppression so that—while condemning the conspiracies of world oppressors, particularly the United States, which had for years after the victory of the revolution tried to destroy the nascent republic—the nation can stress the need to continue its unrelenting struggle.

For years the Iranian nation has, with all its being, been aware of the true nature of the imperialist United States and by sacrificing its life and property, it created a resisting front against imperialism and its regional and internal lackeys so that with constant struggle it could defend the gains of the revolution and its fundamental principles.

During the past decade, the United States embarked on its most inimical and violent conduct and actions. Sometimes it was preparing for a coup d'etat or an aggressive attack on Tabas.

On other occasions, it abetted Iraq, equipping it against Iran, and supported its internal agents. Most recently, it stationed its warships in the Persian Gulf and attacked Iran's oil platforms.

And finally, it engaged the Islamic Republic in an armed clash and downed an Iranian passenger airliner in mid-air—an example of its extreme animosity and hostility.

In Iran today, there seems to be no area safe from world imperialism's plots and treachery. Yes, the history of the revolution is a witness to the resistance of a steadfast nation which, with a minumum of resources and maximum pressure, confronted the plots of oppression.

And even now it continues undaunted with its eyes open and with perspicacitv in its struggle against, and unmasking of, imperialism. Thus, the revolution gained new dimensions and forged ahead along the path of anti-imperialism.

The Iranian Muslim nation realizes the world-devouring United States will not halt its imperialistic interference even now. As the documents of the den of spies, which provide a written history of U.S. interference in the Islamic revolution of Iran prove, plots will not cease and the masses should remain vigilant and determined.

The masses should seek preservation of the principles of the Islamic revolution based on independence and freedom from the domination of foreigners, and should defend the policy of "Neither East nor West" continually, along with the lofty values of the revolution.

The students of all the universities staged a march yesterday, declared their loathing of such an imperialistic policy, and defended the principles of the revolution, once again declaring their hatred of the arch-Satan, the world-devouring United States.

They stressed the continuation of the struggle against world oppression and revived the memories of thousands of martyrs of the revolution who hastened toward the Almighty by confronting the united front of world infidels.

May this struggle continue until the foundations of world imperialism are destroyed by the people of the world in general!

Commentary on Iraq's Debts, Ties With U.S.

NC0111110088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit research group: "The Iraqi Regime's Financial Impotence and Relations With the United States"]

[Excerpts] It has been reported that a U.S. economic delegation consisting of representatives of the Department of Agriculture began talks with Iraqi officials in Baghdad on Sunday.

These talks are focusing on the provision of credit guarantees to Iraq to enable it to purchase agricultural products from the United States.

A month ago, at the end of the 1987-88 fiscal year, U.S. officials raised the question of the provision of new credits to the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

The expansion of economic relations between the two countries has made Iraq the third largest U.S. trading partner among the Arab countries and, according to economic circles, the United States has displayed great generosity in recent years in extending credits to Iraq. [passage omitted]

The U.S. trade delegation's visit to Iraq and the issue of new credits to Iraq by Western countries coincide with last week's rejection by the U.S. Congress of a bill on economic sanctions on Iraq for its use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurdish opponents.

This bill—prepared after many deliberations between the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate—would have banned U.S. arms transactions and commercial companies doing business with Iraq. Included in the economic sanctions were U.S. agricultural products.

The fact that the rejection of the bill on U.S. sanctions against Iraq coincided with the visit of the U.S. trade delegation to Iraq shows that because of its long-term interests, the United States did not intend to pressure Iraq about its use of chemical weapons, despite the great propaganda blitz that was carried out.

Britain moved in precise coordination with the United States in this, too.

The U.S. trade delegation's visit to Iraq, at the same time, has taken place on the eve of the Baghdad International Fair which is to open today. It is said that many Western companies are trying, by participating in this exhibition, to benefit from Iraq's reconstruction.

Western companies hope to be able to obtain profitable contracts in post-war Iraq. However, these hopes are currently enveloped in doubt because of the outlook for Iraq's economy due to its heavy foreign debts. [passage omitted]

Among the companies participating in the Baghdad fair, caution has replaced zeal where the attainment of huge profits is concerned. Merchants, bankers, and foreign credit organizations are paying less attention to Iraq's interest in implementing new projects and reconstructing old projects than they are to Iraq's ability to repay any new financial undertakings.

The question faced by Western companies is: How hopeful can one be that a country which is among the world's most indebted countries can fulfill its financial commitments?

A Japanese merchant in the Persian Gulf has said: Signing an agreement in Baghdad is a simple matter. But the important question is: When will I receive my money?

Iraq's great need for financial resources coupled with its heavy debts increases the likelihood that there will be a spectacular expansion in its political and economic relations with the superpowers in the near future.

Omani Minister, Khamene'i Discuss OPEC, Ties

LD0311094588 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Visiting Omanese Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad al-Sahanfari today presented to President 'Ali Khamene'i a messsage from Sultan Qabus of Oman.

Al-Shanfari also referred to Iran's role in OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), and said the Islamic Republic has always supported the internal unity of the organisation.

He regretted that the position of certain OPEC member states in the organisation is not reasonable, which issue, he said, has created some discord among its members.

President Khamene'i in reply said the current unstable oil market is the result of plots of the global arrogance.

The Islamic Republic has been trying to establish coordination in OPEC in order to rejuvenate the organisation, said the president. He regretted that certain OPEC members have hindered this coordination by serving the interests of the global arrogance.

Elsewhere the president welcomed expansion of Tehran-Muscat ties in all areas and said bilateral cooperation between the two Muslim countries would have favourable impacts on the oil market and on OPEC. The Omanese minister arrived here Monday.

Economic Council Approves 5-Year Plan

LD0211141888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The Economic Council has approved the proposal for the first 5-year plan for the socioeconomic expansion of the country, as submitted by the planning bodies.

At this meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Musavi, it was also decided that along with the study of the principles of this plan in the Majlis, the Plan and Budget Ministry in cooperation with other ministries will begin work on the preparation of the first 5-year plan so that the bill describing the contents of the first 5-year plan can be drawn up and presented to the Majlis within a specified period.

On the basis of the first plan for the country's expansion, reconstruction, and increased defense capabilities, careful attention has been paid to production and infrastructural capacities, population centers, the elevation and expansion of education, increasing economic growth and controlling inflation, securing [word indistinct] and social justice, and reforming the country's management organization.

Majlis Deputies Debate Reconstruction

[Passages in boldface as published]
WA0211192588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Oct 88 p 18

[Text] **Political service: The open session of the Majlis was held the day before yesterday, presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.**

In this session, the deputies from Do Rud and Azna, Amol, Rasht, and Qom spoke about the directives of the imam concerning the reconstruction of the country, giving serious government attention to the quality of domestic products and maintaining standards, giving priority to agriculture, changing the country's system of dependency, and laying economic, social and cultural foundations. They expressed sorrow over the events in Algeria, the country's lack of attention to athletics, and the utilization of knowledgeable, intellectual people in the programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic.

Also at this meeting, several deputies spoke for and against the bill concerning the first economic, social, and cultural plan.

The detailed report of the session held the day before yesterday follows:

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majlis on Thursday was Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i, the deputy from Do Rud and Azna, who said, referring to the issue of reconstruction:

The true danger is not for the Islamic Republic to be in touch with the world and to benefit from the wealth of sciences of the time, but to crawl to the back of the house and hide from the surge of progress.

Criticizing the two viewpoints—one ignoring the realities of time, fanatically imposing old traditions in the name of religion and morality, and the other remaining indifferent to the invasion of foreign culture in the name of intellectualism—the deputy from Do Rud and Azna said:

Both these viewpoints make the society stagnant, and both produce the same result. They cause blatant colonialism, to which the borders have been closed, but which unwittingly penetrates those borders by the selling of various brands of electrical heaters to the people of the hot deserts of the Arabian Peninsula and freezers to the frozen land of the Eskimos.

He then emphasized that today, while preserving the principles of the revolution, we must become involved in all aspects of the changes in the world.

As the late Mullah 'Ali Kani said: If we do not watch the colonialist show and do not have a serious presence on the world scene, colonialism will enter through a small window and grow so large that it will be unable to leave through a door later.

Avoiding contact with microbes does not result in immunity, and if the microbe is not identified, no learned physician will be able to eradicate it. Therefore, one must fight the microbe itself.

Shafi'i pointed out that so long as our domestic models remain inferior, we cannot get anywhere. He then added: As long our products are of low quality and are imperfect, our culture is susceptible to the undetected entry of colonialism.

Reconstruction is more than the repairing of ruined cities. The government must pay more attention to improving the quality of domestic products, making the standards agency active and independent.

He then proposed that Iran invest in the world and make preparations to export the revolution. We have new resources, and we must transfer and make use of them.

In conclusion, Shafi'i referred to the war of the rich and poor and said: In our country, the poor and the rich need not fight forever. In the Islamic Republic, we can celebrate the victory of the oppressed in this war.

Views of Amol Deputy

Dinan Kazemi, the Deputy from Amol, was another pre-agenda speaker of the session. He began by referring to the resistance of the people in the war and said:

The same enemy who refused to recognize the Islamic Republic now states clearly in international meetings that it submits to the Islamic Republic as a power and sits at the table to listen to its reasoning.

Then, pointing out the self-sacrifices of the prophet, 'Ali, and Hoseyn for God's religion, he compared the movement of the Islamic Republic with those of Her Holiness Zeynab and His Holiness Zeyn al-'Abedin after the uprising of Imam Hoseyn and said:

The designers, engineers, and operators of the government, the people in the nation, and those present in the peace negotiations must be alert and aware of the conspiracies of the enemy.

Emphasizing the unity of the nation, he called attention to the issues of education and training, agriculture, and industries related to agriculture. In conclusion, he praised the good work of the agricultural census officials in the city of Amol.

Views of Rasht Deputy

Elyas Hazrati, the deputy from Rasht, as the third pre-agenda speaker, began his speech by discussing planning as the most important issue of the regime, and said:

The 5-year plan of the country must transform our dependent system of today to an independent system, or at least establish the foundation for creating an independent system.

He continued: We have not succeeded in changing the system of the country, which is a holdover from the previous regime. If we see today that we must devise certain foreign policy methods, if we see that in economic departments and systems the potential for absorbing sincere Hezbollah forces still does not exist, and if we see that, despite our disinclination to have relations and dealings with a country, in practice our relations and transactions have increased several-fold, all these have their roots in the dependent system, which is interested in keeping us linked to the parent system, which only strengthens itself.

If we cannot destroy the roots of this dependent system and build the foundation for creating change with this 5-year plan, we might face more problems in the future.

The deputy from Rasht then considered the need for a successful change in the system, in addition to the need for planning and the urgent need for faithful, strong cadres who are less distanced from the leadership than are the existing cadres.

In conclusion, referring to the message of ehe imam to the children of the martyrs who must take part in a scientific and practical struggle and competition, he said: In order to change the present system, we desperately need forces who have been tested for many years on the battlefields.

Moreover, it is the duty of the officials, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Science [as published], and the related committees in the Majlis to provide the scientific and practical grounds for these forces.

Views of Qom Deputy

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy from Qom, who first said: Considering the exposure of the failure of the socialist economy after 70 years and the victimization of about 30 million of the oppressed classes, of which 10 million people were killed by Lenin and 20 million by Stalin, if there are people who want to start bankruptcies in this country by speaking of a socialist economy, they will be rejected by society. We must make use of the public's investments and ensure that the people benefit from them in the reconstruction of the country.

He then said: Considering the problems of education and the existence of 16 million illiterate people, as well as problems relating to housing, health, the Reconstruction Crusade, and energy, the government cannot solve such problems by itself. As the deputy leader has said, if we gain the trust of the people, we will never need to get loans from others.

Concerning the decline in athletics in the country, the deputy from Qom then said: Those in charge of athletics in this country have caused us embarrassment, with Iran being placed along with Costa Rica and other backward countries, that is, ranking 37th, in other words, an absolute loser.

Then Khalkhali expressed his sorrow concerning the recent events in Algeria and said:

At one time, the French generals, following De Gaulle's order, aimed their bullets at the chests of the Muslim people. Why is it that now Mr Chadli Bendjedid does the same?

Addressing the president of Algeria, he said: You must respond to the demands of the Algerian Muslims. The people of Algeria have given 1.4 million martyrs for the victory of the Islamic revolution, yet there is no sign of Islam in the government.

In conclusion, the speaker asked the Voice and Vision to make use of intelligent, knowledgeable political people, and not to allow a few persons to monopolize the Voice and Vision.

After the pre-agenda speeches of the deputies, the speaker of the Majlis spoke briefly about the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Ashrafi and said:

We honor the memory of the martyr of the prayer niche, Ayatollah Ashrafi, the father of our honorable colleague Mr Ashrafi, and express our condolences to his survivors.

Agenda

Then, the Majlis speaker read the notifications of the deputies to the executive officials, and the Majlis went into session, continuing the first round of discussions of the bill for the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was carried over from the previous session. Those opposing and supporting the bill spoke.

In opposition to the bill, Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh said: The economic factors used in this plan are very rudimentary and ineffective, and generalizations are made.

This economic bill does not indicate whether foreign investments are good or not, whether petrodollars are good or not, or finally, what must be done. This bill circumvents important issues of society, and I am very sorry that, despite my interest in planning, I must vote against this bill.

Davudi-Shamsi spoke as a supporter and said: This bill specifies the economic policy. Improving the condition of the society and the various methods of attaining it has been mentioned both in terms of a general goal and as a cultural achievement. The first part addresses the fight against all manifestations of corruption and decadence.

Also in the first part, the goals of improving the cultural conditions of the society have been addressed. Do these goals not define improvements in the conditions of society? Also, this bill values agriculture and outlines the policy and the course regarding it.

In support of the bill, Seyyed Hoseyn Qazideh said: The honorable opponents have mainly discussed generalities and brought up problems that will be addressed in the details of the bill.

The first economic plan specifies and takes into consideration various economic goals and policies. If more problems exist in this area, they will be ironed out in the details.

He offered several proposals for the implementation of the first economic plan.

At this time, the Majlis speaker proposed doubling the time for the continuation of the speeches and the discussions of the opponents and supporters of the first economic bill. This proposal was put to a vote and was ratified.

In opposition to the bill, Yadollah Eslami said: A general view of cultural affairs has not been included in the first 5-year plan, and the general direction of the cultural system of this plan is not clear. Also, this plan ignores the cultural institutions and fails to offer a clear perspective which would imply Islamic unity.

Furthermore, no attention whatsoever is paid in this plan to the defense and agricultural capabilities of the country. For this reason, I oppose this bill.

Ramazan Ruhaninia spoke in support of the bill and said: Before all else, the responsibility of this bill lies with the Majlis and the deputies to legislate and clarify the policies, and thereby force the executives to move in that direction.

What is being argued here is whether or not the bill can truly move the country in a specific direction in various ways. I say that we must believe it can be done and that this is the most that we could have done up to now.

Kamal'eddin Shahriari opposed the bill and said: We see that in the policies of this bill, there is talk of change in the consumption model, which is part of a 15-25 year strategic plan. In other words, it does not come to any conclusions.

Here, choosing an appropriate technology is discussed; that is, they have not arrived at any conclusions regarding the midterm plan. Why should we include in our 5-year plan the goals and policies of the 25-year plan? We know that in 5 years the consumption model cannot be changed.

Therefore, why should we include it in the policy? Later on the same sort of situation will arise that we see now, 10 years after the revolution. There is still no just distribution among the population.

In support of the bill, Mohsen Nurbakhsh said: Considering our economic situation, we must prepare a plan for the work of different committees. With the passage of time, we have come to realize that we must plan for the administration of the economic affairs of the country and move toward utilizing our own resources.

The economic development program is an inevitable issue. Hence, this plan has paid proper attention to the objectives of the imam's message, which is to reach goals and to set policies.

In opposition, Gholam 'Ali Shahraki said: The goals and policies mentioned in this plan are very good. But where are the criteria that project what the situation with regard to agriculture will be in the next 5 years, or 5 years down the road, what about controlling subterranean waters, or what will the situation with regard to industry and higher education be, or what the literacy level will be?

They brought this plan to the Majlis in its rudimentary stage, but unfortunately, the problem is precisely these differences of opinion. We must have a timetable. This plan does not respond to the needs of our society.

Views of the Majlis Speaker

Then, the speaker of the Majlis explained the contradiction of this bill with regard to the first economic plan and said: Some of the gentlemen emphasized that we need to give this bill to a special committee, as we did in the previous session.

We have studied this, and we do not find it necessary to devise bylaws for it because we cannot give it to a special committee when the relationship of a bill to a particular committee is unclear.

However, it is clear to us that this bill concerns the Plan and Budget Committee. This bill should have gone to other committees as a secondary measure, but it did not. This criticism is valid.

Now, we have drafted and sent a letter to the committees to work with their related ministries in the second round of discussions.

Mr Shahraki's objection is that fundamentally the plan is insufficient; in reality it is the goals and the policies which fall short. Of course, this problem exists in the first round of discussions.

I admit that this problem does exist. The insufficiences of the plan will be presented to the committees. The problems will be examined in detail and eliminated in the second round of discussions.

As a supporter, Mohammad Majdara said: We must discuss the general points of this bill. We must also discuss the list of items and funds after we have the opinion of the Majlis. It is the right of this Majlis to discuss and examine the numbers, figures, and funds on the basis of its own criteria.

For this reason, the Plan and Budget Committee has issued certain guidelines. For example, considering the population growth, which is 3.7 percent, it was said that the minimum production growth must be 4 percent. In response to some of the brothers, I must say that figures and statistics are only mentioned in Part 3.

As an opponent of the bill, Mohammad 'Ali Shar'i said: Whether we have a plan or not, the country continues to operate and its budget is utilized. If we do not have a plan, there will be unpleasant consequences. On the other hand, our political and economic limitations require us to have relations and exchanges with other countries.

Thus, we most definitely need a plan, but a strong plan which solves problems. What is certain is that a plan must at least have five principles. The first principle is that it must have clear long-term goals, clear intermittent goals, and clear sectional goals. The second principle is that the comprehensive plan must have a classification model. The third principle determines the policies of the goals of the plan. The fourth principle is that the accepted principles must be founded on reliable evidence.

The fifth principle is determining priorities based on existing limitations. For this reason, this bill will not materialize these goals.

Morteza Alviri said in support of the bill: In this bill, there is no sign of numbers and figures. The goals and strategies of the first stage of development are mentioned, and the divisional plans and quantitative goals are supposed to come in the second round of discussions.

Because, as Mr Hashemi pointed out, the committee was a special one in which there were no members of other committees, sometimes the meetings were not held. Finally, the Second Majlis ended, but the report did not come to the Majlis.

What I am saying here is that if we want to do something for the destitute, the most essential thing is to state where this country wants to go, what its direction is, and to plan accordingly.

The most essential task that the Third Majlis can do is to clarify what is to be done with the plan and tell the government how, within 5 years, the limited investments that we have are going to be spent.

Sadaqiani spoke as the last opponent and said: In this bill, which has been offered to the Majlis as the first economic and social plan, none of the essential issues has been planned. In the first section, the general goals and policies are mentioned, which are on the whole covered in the Constitution itself, and its preface mentions it more eloquently and thoroughly than it is mentioned here.

It is not necessary for us to repeat the entire Constitution here in writing the law. What is mentioned as the goals and policies of this bill has been voted on previously by all the Iranian people, which is the Constitution, and there is no doubt about it. Here, general issues are raised, which is in itself no problem.

For example, there are the reconstruction and mobilization of the defense capability of the country. But how, with what amount of money, and when should it begin? None of these are mentioned in the plan.

The last supporter of the bill was 'Eynollah 'Ala, who expressed his views on the first economic, social and cultural plan, and said: If there are problems in the first round of discussions of the bill, they can be eliminated in the details and in the second round of discussions.

For this reason, in my opinion, the gentlemen should vote yes, to implement the first 5-year plan of the country.

At this time, the open session of the Majlis ended, and the continuation of discussions on this bill was postponed until the next session.

The open session of the Majlis ended at 12 noon and the next session was announced for 8 am the following day, Sunday.

Maldives

Reportage on Coup Attempt Against President

Gayoom, Ministers 'Safe'

BK0311074588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] In the Maldives, unidentified gunmen attacked the presidential palace in Male early this morning. The Maldives ambassador to Colombo says the president, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and his ministers are safe. He said government is in full control of the situation and has succeeded in containing the problem.

Latest information, however, indicates that trouble is still continuing in the capital. Earlier reports have said that the president and two of his ministers have been taken hostage by gunmen, who arrived at the island capital early this morning.

At least two persons, including a soldier have been killed in the attacks in the palace. The death toll could be higher.

The president's house, headquarters of the national security forces, and some other government institutions were stormed. Although the identity of the attackers has not yet been established, they are reported to be Tamil-speaking.

'No Orders' for Indian Navy

BK0311091388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 3 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi cancelled a planned trip to Bihar State Thursday because of the coup attempt in the Maldives, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. A government official confirmed that Mr. Gandhi's trip had been cancelled, but declined to give any reason.

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom had been scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on Tuesday for a three-day visit and talks with Mr. Gandhi but the trip was cancelled without explanation at the last moment.

Residents of the Maldives capital Male said Thursday that Mr. Gayoom and two senior ministers had been captured by the Tamil-speaking gunmen. The Maldives High Commissioner in Colombo, however, said the president was safe and the takeover bid had been crushed.

Foreign Office officials here said New Delhi was "closely monitoring the situation in the Maldives."

A Navy spokesman said the Indian Navy, the largest in the region, was on normal vigil and had received no orders to do with the Maldives.

"We are always alert," said the spokesman when asked if the Navy had sounded a special alert. "But there have been no developments from our side."

"These things are handled at a very high diplomatic and political level.

"If the Maldives were to ask for Indian naval assistance, it is up to the government to decide if it wants to give the assistance after considering the various implications. So far we have received no orders," the Navy spokesman said.

AFP Updates Situation

BK0311125788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 3 Nov 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Nov 3 (AFP)—Up to 20 people were killed Thursday when suspected Sri Lankan mercenaries stormed the capital of the Maldives, residents said, as the government asked India for military assistance to crush the coup bid.

Residents of the Maldives capital Male contacted by telephone said some 150 Tamil-speaking gunmen, widely believed to be Sri Lankan Tamils, landed by boat early Thursday and seized virtually the whole of the one-mile-long island.

They said between 15 and 20 people were believed killed and that there was still sporadic fighting going on late Thursday.

There were conflicting reports about the fate of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, 51, who survived coup attempts in 1980 and 1983.

Residents said there were reports National Security Minister Ibrahim Ilyas had been wounded while trying to escape, and that some ministers and government officials had been taken hostage.

"The mercenaries are in full control of all government buildings except the National Security Guard Headquarters," said a resident living near the Presidential Palace, which was said to have fallen to the gunmen.

Key installations in Male, including the Overseas Telecommunication Centre, the state-run Voice of Maldives and power generators, had also been taken over by the heavily-armed attackers and the island nation's airport was closed.

Maldives diplomats here said Mr. Gayoom was safe and in "full control" of the situation, but added that they did not know his exact whereabouts.

In Colombo, diplomatic sources said that Mr. Gayoom had escaped from the presidential palace "either before or after" the attack and that the gunmen, believed to number about 150, had left in a boat from Sri Lanka Wednesday.

They accused a Maldives businessman and a supporter of former President Ibrahim Nasir of recruiting the gunmen in the Sri Lankan capital over the past eight months. The 1980 and 1983 coup bids were reportedly backed by rival business interests allegedly supported by Mr. Nasir. [passage omitted]

Male residents said earlier Thursday that there were reports Mr. Gayoom, Mr. Ilyas and Presidential Affairs Minister Abbas Ibrahim, the brother and brother-in-law of the president, had been taken hostage by the gunmen.

The Maldives High Commissioner here, Ahmed Abdullah, described the gunmen as "dark-skinned, Tamil-speaking foreign invaders (who) came in a boat and tried to take over the country." He said the situation was "under control."

The high commission closed here later Thursday without explanation.

The international airport in Hulule Island, two kilometers (about a mile) from Male, was shut indefinitely early Thursday, Sri Lankan aviation officials said, and residents said it might have fallen to the attackers.

The gunmen, who stormed Male lobbing grenades and firing automatic weapons, were in battle dress and seemed to be mostly in their 20's, the residents said.

Electricity was cut off in the Maldives capital and streets were deserted except for the gunmen, they said. State-run radio was silent.

"People don't know what is going on or who is in control," a resident said. "People are frightened and nobody is coming out of their homes."

"The mercenaries have rounded up all boatmen along the seafront," a resident said, referring to the operators of taxi-boat services between Male and its neighbouring islands.

Some 10,000 tourists, mostly Westerners and Japanese, are believed to be in the Maldives, a nation of some 1,196 coral islands spread 750 kilometers (450 miles) across the Indian Ocean. [passage omitted]

Indian Assistance Sought

BK0311112588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Nov 3 (AFP)—The Maldives Government has asked for Indian military assistance to put down an attempt by Tamil-speaking gunmen to seize power in the Indian Ocean nation, an Indian Government spokesman said here Thursday [3 November].

"We believe a request has also been made for assistance to the United States," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said the request to India was under consideration, but could not say how soon a decision would be made.

(A Maldives diplomat in Colombo said Thursday that the Maldives might seek military aid to put down the takeover bid in the Indian Ocean nation.

("There could be appeals for military help" from the authorities in Male, the Maldives capital island, the diplomat told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in the Sri Lankan capital.

(Maldives "authorities might have" already sought the help, he added, without specifying to whom the appeal may have been made.)

The gunmen landed in boats early Thursday and stormed the presidential palace, according to residents in Male who said up to 20 people may have died. [passage omitted]

India curently has some 49,000 troops in Sri Lanka sent there on a peace keeping mission after New Delhi and Colombo signed a pact in July 1987 to end the Tamil separatist conflict in the island state. India also commands the region's largest naval force.

India Sending Paratroopers

BK0311144188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 3 (AFP)—India is sending paratroopers and naval ships to the Maldives, where suspected Sri Lankan mercenaries tried to mount a coup Thursday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The agency said India was rushing about 1,600 paratroopers to the islands in response to a request from the Maldives Government for military assistance.

(Up to 20 people were killed when some 150 Tamil-speaking gunmen landed by boat early Thursday and stormed the capital Male, seizing virtually the whole of the one-mile (1.5-kilometer) long island, residents of Male contacted from Colombo said.)

Two long-haul aircraft—an Il-76 and an AN-32—have been positioned at the naval airbase at the southern port city of Cochin to drop two crack battalions of paratroopers in the island nation, the news agency said.

Simultaneously three warships under the Southern Naval Command were ready to sail to the Maldives, PTI said.

The news agency said the decision to rush assistance was taken at a meeting here Thursday of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, the highest decision-making body of the federal government.

PTI said the 1,600 paratroopers had been flown to Trivandrum from the Southern Army Command Headquarters in Pune, western Maharashtra State.

The news agency said they would be carrying their normal battle complements of light tanks, recoilless guns and heavy bazookas. Heavier weapons would be carried by the warships, it added.

In an earlier brief despatch from Cochin, PTI said: "Indian naval ships are being moved to the troubled zones in the Indian Ocean around the Maldives Islands." The news agency cited a top naval official based in Cochin as the source for the report, but gave no further details. Government spokesmen here were not immediately available to confirm the reports. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'in Touch' With Officials

BK0311130988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 3 (AFP)—The United States is in touch with Maldives officials over the attempted takeover of the Indian Ocean nation by mercenaries Thursday, U.S. diplomats here said.

But they declined to confirm reports Male had sought help from Washington to crush a raid on the Maldivian capital by some 150 heavily-armed gunmen, widely believed to be Sri Lankans.

"The U.S. has been in touch with Maldivian authorities in Colombo" and with others "who are concerned" with the situation in the Maldives, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

"In such a situation which is still fluid, we cannot go beyond saying that there have been contacts," he added, refusing to give further details.

The U.S. Embassy spokesman also declined comment on a statement by an Indian Government spokesman in New Delhi that the government of Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom had also approached the United States for military aid.

India has said it is considering a request from the Maldives Government for military aid to crush the gunmen who had reportedly captured almost the whole of Male. Up to 20 people are believed to have been killed in the takeover bid.

UK Asked for Assistance

LD0311141788 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1330 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Britain has been asked for military assistance to help repel the attempted coup in the Maldives, the former British colony in the Indian Ocean, the Foreign Office said today.

No response has yet been made to the request conveyed through the British High Commission in Sri Lanka and by the Maldives trade commission in London.

An initial reaction in London was that Britain was unlikely to send troops, partly because there are no British troops in the immediate area.

Britain, however, is expected to consult with the United States, which is also understood to have received a request for assistance.

Pakistan

Afghan MiG-23 Shot Down; Pilot Arrested

BK0311102088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Two Afghan planes violated Pakistan's airspace near Thal and intruded 6 miles into the Pakistani territory while flying at a very high altitude this morning.

An F-16 fighter aircraft intercepted the attacking planes and shot down a MiG-23 plane of the Afghan Air Force.

The wreckage of the Afghan plane was located near (Fardan) village, 6 miles in the northwest of Thal inside Pakistani territory.

The Afghan pilot has been arrested.

New Aircraft 'Atlantic' Inducted Into Navy

BK0211162488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] A new aircraft, the "Atlantic," was inducted into the Pakistan Navy at a function on 'PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Mehran' at the naval air base [as heard] in Karachi today.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman and outgoing naval chief Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey said that Pakistan's Navy is equipped with latest weapons and naval ships so that it is capable of effectively defending the country's maritime boundaries.

Adm Sirohey also inspected the air store depots of the Pakistan Navy at 'PNS Haider' and 'PNS Iqbal' in the city.

Sri Lanka

Country Paralyzed as Sinhala 'Militants' Strike

BK0311071088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov. 3 (AFP)—Troops were put on maximum alert Thursday as a general strike sponsored by Sinhalese militants paralysed most of Sri Lanka, residents and officials said.

Shops and most offices were shut in Colombo and elsewhere as the work stoppage called by the Janatha Vimukti Peramua (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) began early Thursday at the end of a five-hour night curfew.

"The strike seems to be total," a military spokesman here said, adding that security forces and troops were on full alert. He said troops in civilian clothes were operating some government buses while a few privately-owned minibuses were running under tight security in the capital.

There was no violence and the strike had paralysed virtually all of Sri Lanka's southern, central and western districts populated by the majority Sinhalese community, the spokesman and residents said.

In Colombo, police stepped up vigil and armed policemen took up positions at strategic points, while normally-busy streets looked deserted. There were fewer vehicles on the roads and government offices and banks reported thin or no attendance.

The JVP, which has its support base among the Sinhalese, called for the strike to protest against the alleged arrest and death in custody of one of its leaders, Sumith Athukorale.

The Sri Lankan Government imposed a five-hour curfew Wednesday night, and police sources said it was aimed at preventing the movement of JVP activists during the night. The curfew ended before dawn Thursday.

The government said Wednesday that the JVP call was aimed at disrupting the country's presidential elections, due on December 19, and general elections scheduled for early next year.

The JVP, which staged four successful strikes last month in a bid to force the 11-year-old government of President Junius Jayewardene to step down, has been blamed for more than 500 deaths over the past 15 months.

The JVP had led a bloody insurgency in 1971 which was put down with a loss of at least 10,000 lives. It renewed its violent campaign in July 1987, after India and Sri Lanka signed a peace pact to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

New Delhi has some 49,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka under the agreement.

Indian Troops Kill 3 'Terrorists', Arrest 19

BK0311111288 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed and 19 others apprehended by the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] in their operations in northern and eastern sectors of Sri Lanka.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Chinnathambi Ponnuswami of Batticaloa was shot dead by Indian troops in Batticaloa. At Chavakachcheri in the Jaffna sector, the IPKF shot dead Jayaseelan, an LTTE area leader of Innuvil, and two other terrorists. The troops also seized three hand grenades.

The Indian troops apprehended four LTTE terrorists at Marudanamadam in the Jaffna sector.

In Columbuthurai in the same sector, IPKF forces raided a terrorist hideout and captured one terrorist and recovered two walkie-talkie sets and some documents.